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AGAWAM

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SCHOOLS

Supt. will leave ECC to successor

By Mike Lydick
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School Superintendent Steve Lemanski said his decision to retire in June after just three years in the position was not an easy one.

"It's with mixed emotions that I am leaving Agawam," he said. "There are a few items in motion that I will not be able to see completed."

Lemanski added that in hindsight, he wished he had more

years to serve. He said the term has been both educational and enjoyable.

"I've learned a great deal about the position and about myself in a short amount of time," he said. "I've learned there's much more needed to do and many more years needed to accomplish this — years that I cannot commit to at this time."

Lemanski said he's received a "tremendous" level of support from the district and community during his short tenure as super-

intendent — something most superintendents "would envy and only hope to attain in their careers."

He cited creating a strategic plan for the district, adding lead teacher positions at each elementary school, and hiring full-time directors for English language learning and social-emotional learning as major accomplishments.

"These are initiatives that will

LEMANSKI | page 7



Shortly after he was hired in May 2017, School Superintendent Steve Lemanski met with a class of fifth graders at Doering School during a tour of all Agawam schools. Lemanski will retire in June after a 35-year education career. PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

HIGH SCHOOL

Funding finally OK'd for outdoor classroom

By Michael Ballway
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An outdoor classroom and park proved nowhere near as controversial as affordable housing at last week's City Council meeting.

Minutes after a long and inconclusive discussion on whether to spend Community Preservation Act money on the proposed Rosewood Way apartment complex, councilors on Feb. 18 unanimously approved a \$421,600 CPA expense to build Learning Tree Conservation Park, a long-awaited educational nature area on town-owned land adjacent to Agawam High School. Work on the park is expected to begin next month, and finish in time for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

It's the last step in a journey

LEARNING | page 12



Everybody loves Legos, including Neil Anderson and his daughter Abby. Father and daughter worked together to build a house at "Lego Fun for Everyone" at the Agawam Public Library last week. More photos, page 16. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Joined together



Eric Paliy concentrates as he thinks about where to put the next piece in his Lego creation.



Poll workers check in primary election voters during early voting at the Agawam Senior Center on Tuesday. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

PRIMARY ELECTION

Parties pick their candidates Tuesday

By Michael Ballway
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Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday, March 3, for the Massachusetts presidential primary election and a special state senate district primary election.

Agawam voters will help determine the winners of four parties' primary elections for U.S. president, local delegates to state party committees, and the mem-

bers of town party committees. On a separate ballot, voters will help choose the nominees for the March 31 special election for state Senate.

Tuesday's voting will take place at the usual precinct polling locations in Agawam and Feeding Hills. All of the polling places are in schools; students will attend morning classes only.

Precinct 1: Robinson Park School, 65 Begley St., Agawam
Precinct 2: Granger School, 31

S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills

Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., Agawam

Precinct 4: Doering School, 68 Main St., Agawam

Precinct 5: Phelps School, 689 Main St., Agawam

Precincts 6 and 8: Clark School, 65 Oxford St., Agawam

Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills

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Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications
offers two types of
obituaries.

One is a free, brief
Death Notice listing
the name of deceased,
date of death and
funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid
Obituary**, costing
\$100, which allows
families to publish
extended death notice
information of their
own choice and may
include a photograph.
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should be
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*Exceptions will be made
only when the family
provides a death certificate
and must be pre-paid.*

Q & AGAWAM

After serving his nation, Mancini serves his town

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

Aldo Mancini, a tireless volunteer at veterans' events and supporter of veterans' causes in Agawam, is taking his advocacy to the grave – literally.

Mancini was recently appointed by the City Council to the volunteer post of veterans' graves officer. We spoke with him about what he'll be doing in this new role, and what he does for fun in between his public appearances at Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

Q: How did you learn about the veterans' graves officer position?

A: I learned about the position through Gene Theroux. He's actually the Veteran's Grave Officer in Westfield, and he helped me a lot on this journey. I went to Gene for information on grave repair and restoration, because a local Boy Scout was interested in it. He wanted to restore the veterans' graves in an old town cemetery as part of his community service. He spoke to me about it and I got in contact with Gene, but that scout did his homework and was able to use that experience to receive his Eagle badge.

Q: Is grave restoration something you've always been interested in?

A: Well, not exactly, but about 12 years ago we did a cleanup at one of the town cemeteries. We removed vines and weeds and cleaned up the area around the veterans' graves a little bit, before marking them with new and fresh flags. We haven't been back to the cemeteries since, and they could use some care and attention. During that project, I noticed the quality and condition of the grave-stones and considered restoration then, but we were there for a different project.



Aldo Mancini

Why you should know him: A lifelong resident of Feeding Hills and longtime member of the Agawam Veteran's Council, he was recently appointed as the town's veterans' graves officer, a volunteer position. He is also a member of the American Legion, sergeant-at-arms of the Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League, works with local Boy Scout troops, and participates in community projects.

Favorite thing about Feeding Hills: "There's not one specific thing. It's my home town. It's where I've always been."

Q: What are some of the steps you'll be taking?

A: There are four town-owned cemeteries that haven't been kept up the best, and there are some veterans' graves in there. The first step would be finding the marked veterans' graves and verifying them. We haven't ever done this before. Usually we lay flags on the graves for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and we do a parade for Memorial Day. We've always laid the flags, but we understand that mistakes can be made. We want to make sure that the graves with flags are indeed veterans' graves. After the graves have been verified in the older cemeteries, the cleanup process will begin, and we'll move tree branches near veterans' sites, we'll clear weeds and vines, and just make sure the graves look good and are kept up. The last step will be restoration for the graves that need it. Not every site will need restoration.

Q: This is a one-man, volunteer position. Will you recruit help?

A: I've considered asking more Boy Scouts if they'd be interested, and I may think of a way to incorporate them into future plans, but right now I'm trying to familiarize myself with the cemeteries. I've considered asking the [American] Legion members for help as well, and I think that's something

they'd be interested in. I'll probably bring it up at the next meeting and see who would be willing to help with cleanup. ... I can think of a few Legion members and even a few Veterans Council members that would enjoy helping.

Q: What do you do for work?

A: I used to be a mechanic in Agawam. I'm retired now and I volunteer with the Veterans Council, it's a full-on job by itself. I really enjoy the work I do here, and I'm interested in my newest position, as well. I actually went to a grave restoration workshop in Westfield, so that I can better understand how to restore the sites and which sites need the restorations, versus those that don't. I'm also a veteran; I used to be an airplane mechanic. I worked on a few different planes and groups of planes. I once worked on the fighter jets. While I was repairing those crafts, I got my license to be a copilot or to at least be in the copilot section. We had to actually release the eject button and go through the whole process.

Q: What other projects are you working on?

A: I'm currently working on a new project where we're creating signs for those killed in action and killed in service. The names engraved in the monument

on the Veterans Green are those killed in action; we're taking those names and verifying their involvement and death in service. Most people have responded and we've been able to find a verify some. But there are some names that are harder to verify or don't give enough information. The signs for the veterans will be displayed on their street. They're black signs that will go above the regular green street sign. No street [name]s will be changed. The Veterans Council is just trying to find new ways to honor those who served.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I go out with other organizations to help improve the community. All my time is spent in the community now. I wouldn't necessarily call it "community service," but it's being a part of the community. I've helped to lay benches along main streets, we did that last year, and I think we'll be carrying it on this year as well. I helped put up the "Purple Heart Town" signs and I'll be putting up the new soldier signs once we have them all verified and printed. I do a lot in the community and in my council and organization. Sometimes my wife gets upset with the amount that I do, but she understands at the end of the day that this is something I'm pas-

sionate about. Right now, I'm working hard on figuring out the information for the names on the Veterans Green memorial. If anyone knows anything or has tips, that would be helpful.

Q: What are you excited about as the veterans' graves officer?

A: I'm excited to see the transformation. The difference in upkeep can be incredible. Seeing the older cemeteries is always fun for me, I like to look at the headstones and appreciate their look. I read the headstones often; they have little stories for people and it can be really interesting. Next time you find yourself in a cemetery, new or old, try to pay attention to the headstones, because they can be interesting. I'm also excited to get these cemeteries cleaned up and restored to their natural glory. It'll be a sight to see when everything is all said and done.

Q: What impact will you have outside the cemeteries?

A: We'll be verifying all information and keeping tabs on the veteran [grave] sites. This will be a new thing for Agawam and it will certainly help during the times of the year that are dedicated to veterans and those in service. I'm really looking forward to a full and complete list of veterans, and besides that, I guess I'm excited to see what these sites can look like with some love and care. The other thing would be to see the community come together and fix up these cemeteries as a community. It'll be a fun thing to see and be a part of.

Whom should we interview next? Who has an interesting job, hobby, or story to tell in Agawam and Feeding Hills? Suggest a "Q & Agawam" subject by emailing aan@turley.com.

LOCAL
Opportunity
IS KNOCKING

STAFF WRITER
POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Market raising funds to fight diabetes

By Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

For the 24th consecutive year, local Stop & Shop supermarkets are partnering with JDRE, formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, to help find a cure for type 1 diabetes. Approximately 130 markets, including 1282 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, are contributing to the fundraising campaign.

JDRE is a nonprofit organization that funds type 1 diabetes research. To contribute to the cause, Stop & Shop is offering customers the option to donate \$1, \$3 or \$5; customers can also round up their purchase to the nearest dollar, donating the additional sum to the nonprofit.

"All of the stores in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut along with Westchester and Hudson Valley in New York are participating. The program runs from now through March 1," said Maura O'Brien, a manager of external communications at Stop & Shop.

Since partnering in 1997, Stop & Shop and JDRE have enjoyed a successful relationship. Over the years, the duo's fundraising efforts have assisted countless individuals suffering from type 1 diabetes. Organizers have lofty expectations for the 2020 campaign.

"Our goal for this year is to exceed what we raised last year, which was over \$260,000 just in the [local] market area," O'Brien said. "We have goals of meeting and exceeding our 2019 fundraising. Every year it's been a success, which is why Stop & Shop and JDRE continue to partner with each other year in and year out."

Sage Skinner, a 5-year-old girl from Stafford Springs, Conn., is serving as the spokesman of the 2020 drive. Skinner lives with type 1 diabetes and serves as an advocate for all those diagnosed with the disease.

"Sage describes herself as brave. To be 5 years old and describe yourself as brave is pretty tremendous in our eyes. She's a very rambunctious little girl with so much personality who refuses to be slowed down. We're really

proud to be able to work with her at the JDRE to help find a cure for T1D," said O'Brien.

O'Brien oversees a variety of fundraising campaigns and community relations programs each year. The two-week drive to fight type 1 diabetes is among her favorites. She admires the daily resilience that is displayed by individuals with the disease.

"It's a 24/7 disease, and it's something that someone with diabetes has to be mindful of at all times. It's a 'mind over matter' process. They need to be prepared to react to whatever issues they might come across throughout the day," said O'Brien.

For more information regarding the JDRE and type 1 diabetes research, visit jdre.org. O'Brien emphasized the significance of even the smallest contribution.

"Any small amount really helps; those nickels and dimes eventually add up to a large number, and that number will eventually be able to do a lot for research and hopefully finding a cure for T1D," she said.



Students from the Cassin Academy of Dance perform Irish step dances at an Ancient Order of Hibernians event in Holyoke last weekend. They will perform at Agawam's Irish Night on March 14.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

St. Pat's Committee to hold Irish Night

Agawam's "Irish Season" is in full swing, and the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee will hold its annual Irish Night dinner 5-9 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Oak Ridge Golf Club, 850 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

Tickets are \$20 per person. For reservations, text Laurie O'Connell at 413-519-1071 or email her at laurie822@comcast.

net with each guest's meal choice, corned beef or chicken Francais.

The evening will include a Chinese raffle, including chances for a lottery tree, Red Sox tickets and a large screen TV. To round out the fun, there will be a demonstration of Irish dancing from the Cassin Academy of Dance.

Hockey tickets, raffle to help support NAMI

Saturday night, March 14, will be NAMI Night with the Springfield Thunderbirds.

Tickets are \$16 to see Springfield's minor league hockey team play the Utica Comets at the MassMutual Center. The action begins at 7:05 p.m.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts, based in Agawam, will have an information table in the concourse. Sales of game tickets and of chances in a game-worn jersey raffle will benefit NAMI-WM.

NAMI Night tickets are not available at the

MassMutual Center box office. For tickets, visit springfieldthunderbirds.formstack.com/forms/nami_night_march_14th or namiwm.org/events.html, or contact Charles Venezia at 413-417-2311 or cvenezia@springfieldthunderbirds.com and mention NAMI Night.

NAMI-WM is dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by mental illness through support, education and advocacy. It is part of America's largest grassroots mental health organization.

Vaccinations available at Town Hall nurse's office

The Agawam Health Department has Tdap vaccine available for residents age 19 to 64 in need of vaccination to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

Vaccination with Tdap is recommended for all pregnant women in their last trimester of pregnancy to protect their unborn child. In addition, expectant fathers and grandparents should be vaccinated to protect the baby, as well. Newborn infants are too young to be vaccinated for pertussis, but vaccinating

close contacts provides "herd" immunity.

Almost all adults were vaccinated as children, but their immunity has waned and they are no longer protected, so a one-time booster shot is recommended.

Patients should call 413-726-9722 to schedule an appointment. Payment is processed through their Massachusetts health insurance plans. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, at Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam.

Kids' clothing needed for free exchange

Agawam High School's SAVE Club and National Honor Society, along with Agawam's Zero Waste Club, will host the third annual Kids' Used Clothing Exchange next month.

Across Massachusetts, residents and businesses dispose of approximately 230,000 tons of textiles annually. About 95 percent of this material could be reused or recycled instead of thrown away. This event was created to normalize the reuse of clothing that remains in good condition.

Clean, gently used kids' clothing will be collected at the Agawam Pub-

lic Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, from noon to 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 13. All types of clothing, from infant through teen styles, is requested. No footwear, including shoes, boots and sneakers, will be accepted. All donations will be prescreened before the donors leave.

General, free public shopping of the collected donations will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14, also in the library. Shoppers are asked to bring reusable shopping bags, as this is intended to be a zero-waste event. Any clothing remaining will be donated to local charities.

ed to local charities.

Reusable textile items other than children's clothing may also be recycled or repurposed. The state Department of Environmental Protection supports a Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory at recyclesearch.com/profile/ma, with information on where to recycle, reuse, or repurpose textile items that are no longer needed or wanted.

For more information, email helgathehen@gmail.com or call Nancy Bobskill at 413-285-2182.

St. David to host turkey dinner

At 6 p.m. this Monday, March 2, parishioners at St. David's Episcopal Church will serve a roast turkey dinner with all the fixin's. All are welcome. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets can be reserved by calling the church office at 413-786-6133 and leaving a message with a name, phone number and the desired number of tickets.

On Tuesday, March 3, St. David's will host a hearty lunch served for

free to all veterans and one guest from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is part of a series of veterans' lunches served free the first Tuesday of every month. It is sponsored by the Agawam Lions Club in partnership with the veterans' association and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts' Building Bridges Program. All veterans are welcome, from any town. Veterans are encouraged to bring a friend, who will also eat for free.

2-day bag sale in mid-March at Trading Post shop

The Trading Post of the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St., Agawam, will hold a bag sale two days next month.

Patrons may fill a bag with all items that fit for \$5 per bag during the sale. Sale times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14.

Artisan group to hear from basket weaver

Marsha Leavitt, basket weaver, will demonstrate her art to the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans on March 11 at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to this free demonstration.

A year and a half ago, Leavitt retired from a job in information technology at Smith College, and she's since found a new calling. Today, the Florence artist says, "I spend part of almost every day following my passion for basket making. I love the beauty and functionality of baskets as

well as the historical significance.

"There are so many methods and styles of basketry; my goal is to keep trying as many as possible to discover new favorites. So far, reed and paper are mostly what have stuck. I am also having a great time doing pine needle basketry. I believe everyone can learn to do this, and it is very satisfying to go home with a nice basket."

Leavitt, who also teaches classes in the craft, has forged ties as well with fellow artists in the Arts & Industry Building in Florence. She's been collaborating recently with Andrew

Vlock and Chinatsu Nagamune of Codo Ceramics and Textiles.

Leavitt says, "I have a vision of what I want to make but have learned not to get too invested in how it comes out. Baskets seem to have a mind of their own, and I may have to try different things before I am happy with one."

She belongs to the Northeast Basketmakers Guild, and has three events each year.

For further information, contact: Ceil Rossi at 413-207-1247 or tocare-free2@hotmail.com.

Mission series links Passion with parts of Mass

Deacon Roger Carrier will lead "Behold the Lamb of God: A Lenten Journey into the Mystery of the Mass as Eternal Sacrifice," on Thursdays in March at Sacred Heart Church.

The mission series will explore the relationship between the Passion of Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Mass, by examining specific parts of the liturgy, praying through the texts and reflecting on Sunday readings.

Sessions will be held 6:30-8 p.m.

Thursdays at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Participants may wish to bring a Bible and missalette for reference. Handouts will be provided each week; every session will have a different theme:

March 5: "Prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries."

March 12: "By the mystery of this water and wine. ..."

March 19: "An acceptable sacrifice: My sacrifice and yours."

ficce: My sacrifice and yours."

March 26: "Behold the Lamb of God."

Registration is required; participants must send their name and phone number to pastoral.ministries@sacredheartfeedinghills.org, or call Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco at 413-786-8200, ext. 3. There is no registration fee, but free-will offerings will be graciously accepted. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Meat pie dinner next week to aid Leonard House

All are invited to a "tavern dinner" fundraiser next week at Agawam's historical Captain Charles Leonard House.

A hearty French meat pie dinner will be served continuously 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 5. The main course, salad, dessert, and beverage will be served by the all-volunteer board of

trustees and friends of the Captain Leonard House. Meals will also be available for takeout.

A donation of \$15 per adult and \$10 per child, age 12 and younger, is suggested, with proceeds to aid in the preservation of the National Register-listed Captain Leonard House at 663 Main St., Agawam.

The Captain Leonard House, built in 1805 as a stagecoach tavern, is considered to be Agawam's finest Federal-era home, and is available to rent for business functions and social events. For information about rentals, call 413-786-9421 or visit captainleonardhouse.com/facilities.

Agawam Day returns Weds. to Fort DeSoto Park, Fla.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The 39th annual Agawam Day in Florida will be held Wednesday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Former Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National Park, St. Petersburg, Fla.,

for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs and old memories. Every year between 60 and 100 former residents and "snowbirds" show up for the party.

For information on the event, contact organizer Hank Drownowski at 860-462-7273 or hdrew2452@gmail.com.

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AHS Hall of Fame seeks nominations

The committee for the Agawam Athletic Hall of Fame is currently accepting nominations for athletes, coaches, and contributors to the sports programs at Agawam High School worthy of induction in 2020. These male and female athletes, coaches, or contributors should be of exceptional quality who have earned regional or state

recognition in their sports. Guidelines for nominees and the procedure to follow when making such nominations may be viewed at www.agawamed.org/high/athletics, or applications may be picked up in person in the Athletic Department office at the high school, 760 Cooper St., Agawam.

Actress will bring Revolutionary women to life

Rita Parisi will portray the “Women of ’76” as the Agawam Cultural Council Applause Series continues at the Agawam Senior Center on Friday, March 6. This free one-woman historical performance will begin at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:15 p.m. Parisi is an accomplished actor who will bring to life Baroness von Riedesal, wife of a Hessian general and chronicler of life in the military camps; Prudence Wright, minutewoman and spy catcher; and Nancy Hart, a southern frontierswoman who faced the enemy and won. Attendees will learn about these women and others, both patriot and loyalist, American and foreign, who witnessed the American Revolution firsthand, and in some cases, changed the course of it. The Senior Center is at 954 Main St., Agawam, and can be reached at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

K of C fish dinners begin this Friday

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will host fish dinners at Sacred Heart Parish on Friday evenings in Lent. They will serve baked fish, French fries, coleslaw, beverage and dessert 5-7 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, and April 3, at the church at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. The cost is \$10 per person. Take-out is available. Proceeds will assist the Knights of Columbus in their corporal and spiritual works of mercy, such as pro-life works, supporting churches, etc.

Vendors sought for Leap Day tag sale

Agawam Congregational Church will hold a huge, special, leap year tag sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28-29. This sale promises something for everyone. The church, at 745 Main St., Agawam, is handicapped accessible, with a large parking lot.

Partnership to build home for disabled residents in Agawam

By Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

Among the 28 residences statewide to be constructed or fitted to house individuals with intellectual disabilities, at least one will be in Agawam. CIL Central Realty of Massachusetts will build the homes with a \$20 million bond issued by MassDevelopment, a state agency. The residences will be scattered across the state in 22 different cities and towns. Making the list in Western Massachusetts are Agawam, Chicopee, Greenfield, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Southampton, Springfield, Ware and West Springfield. “The people that live in these homes, they could be anybody. They could be the person you’re seeing in the grocery store,” said Samantha VanSchoick, CIL’s marketing and business development manager. “I think that it’s important to remember that anybody could be in a situation where they need to live in a community residence.” CIL is a nonprofit real estate developer that specializes in renovating or building residences for individuals with a range of developmental disabilities. The company operates in Massachusetts and Connecticut and has completed projects at nearly 300 separate properties. More than 80 of the group’s projects have been financed with tax-exempt bonds issued by MassDevelopment, an agency that fully supports CIL’s mission of providing homes for people that need them. “For decades CIL Realty of Massachusetts has been an invaluable resource. ... We are proud to partner with the organization once again and provide financing to support an additional 28 community residences across the commonwealth,” said Lauren Liss, president and CEO of MassDevelopment. Before embarking on a venture, CIL communicates with various human service providers to discuss the ideal placement of a residence. VanSchoick noted that locations are selected “entirely based off of where people want to live.”

Without a developer such as CIL, service providers would be forced to pay the majority of the costs that are required to develop and open a residence. The gravity of the task is not lost on VanSchoick, who has a brother with autism. “For us to be able to work with MassDevelopment and get this financing in place, it allows people to live independently and get people out of nursing homes; not everybody wants to live in a nursing home,” said VanSchoick, who estimated that a typical project costs anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million. Each town that houses a residence will likely benefit, said VanSchoick. She said local economies have been positively impacted by past endeavors and the demand that is created. “The effect of that can be great for jobs and contractors and subcontractors building the homes, and then also for service provider positions, which I know are always looking for people,” said VanSchoick. A total of 336 human-service industry jobs will be created in the 28 communities that the project has targeted, VanSchoick said. Eighty-five construction jobs will also be supported. Each facility will be managed and operated by an organization that leases it. Each property houses four to six residents. A press release from MassDevelopment stated that the agency financed or managed 316 projects during fiscal 2019. The projects, in turn, generated an investment of more than \$2 billion in the state’s economy. It is estimated that these projects created or supported nearly 10,000 jobs and preserved just shy of 2,000 housing units. CIL fully recognizes and appreciates the work that the agency has done. “CIL has a strong partnership with MassDevelopment,” said Chris Canna, president of real estate development for CIL. “With their help, we are able to fulfill our mission of providing affordable and accessible living options to those in need.”

Nesci to lead social service agency

Lois Nesci of Feeding Hills has been appointed chief executive officer of Gándara Center, a West Springfield-based agency that provides culturally sensitive mental health, substance use, residential, and preventative services across the state. Nesci, who has held executive leadership positions for several nonprofit human services agencies in Massachusetts and Connecticut, was most recently chief operating officer at the Center of Human Development in Springfield. She officially began her new role at Gándara Center on Feb. 3. Nesci looks forward to the new position and the opportunities it will create. “My goal is to make sure Gándara Center continues to advance its mission as it has for the past 42 years — to advocate for and to provide help to the underserved in



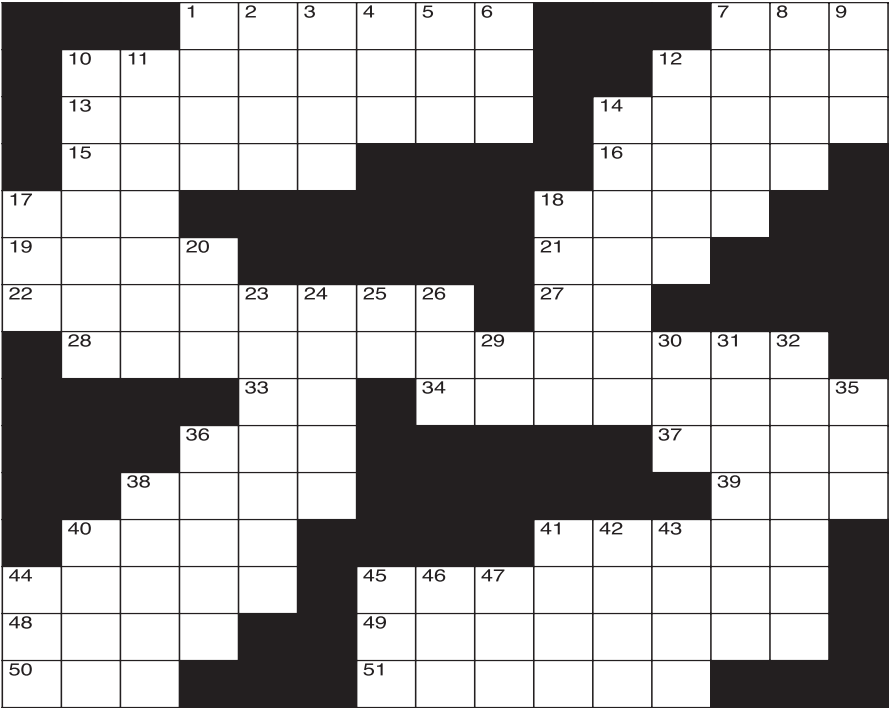
Lois Nesci

our communities,” she said. Nesci earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, Conn. She brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit administration, including positions at Brightside for Families and Children (executive director), formerly in West Springfield, and as chief executive officer of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford, one of the largest non-governmental providers of human services in the state of Connecticut. A native of Meriden, Conn., she began her career at the Gray Lodge in Hartford. Nesci replaces former executive director Henry Julio East-Trou, who retired last year after 21 years at the helm. “We are really excited to have Lois Nesci at Gándara Center and we are confident that she will lead our agency with great distinction,” said Chief Operating Officer Jeff McGeary. “She comes to us with a proven track record and an in-depth working knowledge of nonprofit management and advocacy. We couldn’t have asked for a more suited individual for this role.”

Divorce, grief groups start at Bethany

Divorce Care and Divorce Care for Kids are weekly seminars and support groups for families who are separated or divorced. These groups meet in Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam, each Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This year the groups begin on March 4, and will run for 13 weeks. Newcomers are welcome at any time, even if they miss the first few weeks. There is a one-time registration fee of \$15 for materials (scholarships are available). Anyone who has lost a loved one, or who

knows someone who has, is welcome to join the weekly GriefShare support group every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at Bethany. The groups will begin on March 4, and will run for 13 weeks, with new members welcome at any time. There is a one-time registration fee of \$15 for materials (scholarships are available). Information on all three support groups is available at the Hospitality Counter in the main foyer of the church, or online at Bethany-AG.org.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Stain one's hands
7. Subdivision
10. A passage to be performed slow
12. Invests in little enterprises
13. Medians
14. Member of the giraffe family
15. Makes official
16. Choose in an election
17. Hill or rocky peak
18. Member of an ancient Iranian people
19. Crest of a hill
21. Small, faint constellation
22. Cultivated from crops that yield oil
27. The ancient Egyptian sun god

CLUES DOWN
1. Mental object
2. Blackbird

28. Hollywood tough guy
33. Chinese drums
34. Merits
36. Indicates center
37. Increases motor speed
38. Mentally fit
39. BBQ favorite
40. Wings
41. Female parents
44. Marks left from wounds
45. Soften by soaking in liquid
48. They resist authority (slang)
49. Formats
50. Many subconsciousnesses
51. Vogues

CLUES DOWN
3. Undergarments
4. Old cloth
5. One from Utah
6. Greek goddess of the dawn
7. Become less intense
8. Developed to readiness
9. Defunct phone company
10. About Freemason
11. Taking everything into account
12. Famed Czech engineer
14. Impress into silence
17. Boxing term
18. Marketplaces
20. Pounds per square inch
23. Locomotives
24. Short musical composition

25. Football position (abbr.)
26. Heavyhearted
29. Denotes particular region
30. Famed NHLer
31. Ingested too much
32. Formulates
35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
36. Broad, shallow craters
38. Thick cuts
40. Breezed through
41. Breakfast is one
42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
43. Periodicals (slang)
44. Indian title of respect
45. More (Spanish)
46. Creation
47. A loud utterance

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 12

Schools & Youth

K-12 energy efficiency contest seeks drawn, written entries

Writing a poem, drawing a cartoon strip, or creating a superhero are just three ways Eversource is encouraging students to demonstrate their knowledge of energy efficiency in a contest next month.

The energy company is accepting submissions for its seventh annual Student Challenge, open to kindergarten to high school students in communities served by its electric utility, including Agawam. The deadline for registration is March 17. All entries must be received or postmarked by March 27.

“From posters and poems to persuasive speeches and community projects, Massachusetts students continue to impress us year after year with their entries and ‘energy smarts,’” said Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. “We are excited to see this year’s entries, and we encourage students who have not yet entered to register to do so before the March 17 deadline.”

Students in grades K-8 are assigned grade-specific challenges and asked to submit entries in the form of a poster (kindergarten to grade 2), limerick (grade 3), an outdoor billboard (grade 4), a narrative and

an image of an energy-saving super-hero (grade 5), a letter to parents (grade 6), a news article (grade 7), or public service announcement (grade 8).

Students competing in Grades 9-12 are asked to create a persuasive image that advocates for an energy topic. Options include a short poem (125 words or fewer) or a cartoon strip (12 cells or fewer) that addresses energy efficiency, a renewable energy source, or environmental concern.

Eversource Challenge finalists in all categories and grade levels will be honored at a special awards ceremony in early May, and winners will receive Amazon.com gift cards. All entries are judged on the use of accurate and scientific facts, creativity, readability, persuasiveness, originality and appearance. Students’ submissions are judged against those from the same grade levels in their community. Finalists will be honored at an awards ceremony on May 9 at the Marriott Long Wharf Hotel in Boston.

For applications, guidelines and more information about the Eversource Challenge, visit www.eversourceinschool.com/challenge.

ROBERTA DOERING SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Roberta Doering School Principal Susan Federico recently announced the second term honor roll for the 2019-20 school year.

Grade 6: Jordin Agosto, Jason Albro, Dawood Atanane, Abdul-Kareem Awkal, Cecelia Baldyga, Maddie Balzano, Katherine Baranov, Anthony Barbarini, Makayla Barcomb, Samuel Beckwith, Maximilian Bradlee, Abigail Brown, Nicholas Brown, Ruslan Bubuz, Carlina Calabrese, Donna Carrier, Maggie Carrier, Dian Circosta-Aspinall, Thomas Connery, Dharbi Cooper, Kazim Dadayev, Grace Decaro, Charlotte DeVillier, Melanie Dikan, Omar Elgendy, Brayden Federico, Mikhail Fedotov, Lucas Fillion, Megan Fitzgerald, Alison Fox, Sydney Fraser, Abigale Gagnon, Kayleigh Garvey, Chase Gerani, Tyler Gervais, Evelyn Gionfriddo, Grant Gionfriddo, Avery Gordon, Liam Grealis, Gabriella Grechka, Devin Griffin, Aiden Guzman, Cooper Hermans, Brody Hollister, Cole Ingham, Juliet Johnson, Nolan King, Alliah Kotjahasan, Sarah Kriebel, Angelina Kripakova, Isabella Laprise, Sophia Laprise, Matilda Larochelle, Chase Larrabee, Aiden Lavelle, Marissa Leary, Austin Leblanc, Jason Liacos, Nolan Longo, Kayla Lukin, Michael Lukomski, Samantha Machos, Finnola Mahoney, Alison Majkowski,

Payton Malanson, Neve Mickiewicz, Avamari Morin-Campbell, Keira Murphy, Hannah Newsome, Alexander Nguyen, Isabella Novak, Amanda Obitz, Zachary O’Connor, Destiny Ortiz, Emily Paquette, Abigail Pazgan, Grace Pellegrino, Thomas Poulin, Angela Privedenyuk, Alexandria Rivera, JanaRose Robbins, Henry Rondeau, Timothy Rua, Jason Ruge, Annabelle Ryan, Tyler Sarogluo. Maxim Savonin, Brandon Seibert, Liliya Sereda, Sofia Shevchuk. Timothy Sholopa, James Shostak, Giuliana Silva, Ethan Stack, Benjamin Struthers, Andrea Sypek, Aiden Therrien, Trinity Thomas, Benjamin Tokarev, Kristen Torres, Caroline Toto, Caden Turgeon, Ella I. Ukrainets, Toni Vassallo, Ava Viara, Ayden Vrijenhoek.

Grade 5: Urwah Aftab, Fidan Ahmadv, Azaan Ahmed, Iraj Ahmed, Nawra Ahmed, Kiril Artemov, Andrew Bagley, D. Balasubramaniam Sakt, Vincent Barrett, Mia Beaudry, Tristan Blackak, Ethan Blackshear, Lia, Boulos, Owen Bulmer, Tyler Callahan, Daniel Carlson, Jack Chivers, Stella Christopher, Kaeden Clifford, Makayla Cooke, Gavin Cruz, Stella Czynewski, Alyssa DaSilva, Timothy Dikan, Noah Dion, Connor Dobies, Timothy Dupre, Mahmoud Elbakri, Scarlett Estes, Owen Finley, Don-

AHS COUNSELING BULLETIN

Special interest programs

Scholarship season is officially underway at Holyoke Community College! The scholarship application process will accept applications until March 25th. Many of our scholarships are geared toward first-year students, and all students who have been accepted for the fall semester is eligible to apply. Students are only required to fill out one application. Our auto-matching system takes information from the student application and uses it to match students with each of the scholarships they’re eligible to receive. And with over \$200,000 in scholarships to award to students, the few minutes it takes to fill out the application is time well spent. Students wishing to apply for scholarships should visit hccscholarship.org.

UMass-Amherst has put together an exciting lineup of pre-college programs for the summer of 2020 at umass.edu/summer/programs/academic-programs. In addition to popular returning programs such as the McCormack Sport Leadership Academy, Summer Engineering Institute, Summer Design Academy, and many others, the following are new programs for 2020: Introduction to Programming in Processing; Foundations of Music Theory; Forensic Science: Crime Scene Investigation; Foundations of Data Science; Architectural & Landscape Watercolor Rendering; and Economics of Hunger. If you have questions about these programs, contact Ben Mitchell, Summer Programs Coordinator, at bmitchell@umass.edu.

Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College are again offering the

chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the fall and spring semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. The spring 2020 courses for STCC are now posted at stcc.edu/explore/schedules/all-spring-2020.

Newly listed scholarships

Isidore Wise Scholarship Program: Connecticut Children’s is offering five scholarships worth \$7,500 each. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited post-secondary undergraduate institution in the fall. All students who are past or present patients (inpatient or outpatient) of any Connecticut Children’s locations may apply. Due March 6.

Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts Scholarship: \$1,000 to qualified seniors who plan to further their education by attending a two or four-year college program. Applications in Naviance. Due March 15.

Springfield Garden Club Scholarship: \$2,000 for graduating high school seniors, undergraduate and graduate college students majoring in, or who have been accepted to a major in, a plant science or environmental studies program (horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, botany, agronomy, plant pathology, environmental control, land management or other allied fields). The candidate must be a resident of Hampden County, have good academic standing, and demonstrate financial need. More info: Elizabeth Tongue at 413-627-5503 or Helen Gallivan at

School Lunch

All lunches served with fresh and chilled fruit. Instead of the main entrée, students can substitute a deluxe salad or the sandwich of the day.

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

High schoolers can also substitute a pizza meal for their entrée.

Monday, March 2: Popcorn chicken bowl, whipped potatoes, corn niblets, dinner roll.

Tuesday, March 3: Half-day — no lunch.

Wednesday, March 4: Chicken fillet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato, cheese, side of coleslaw.

Thursday, March 5: Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with chickpeas and light dressing; or pasta with meatballs, garlic knot, seasoned vegetable, bean salad.

Friday, March 6: Asian chicken, rice mandarin, broccoli, fortune cookie; or mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, celery and cucumber with dip, garlic knot.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 2: Hamburger or cheeseburger on whole-grain bun, Boston baked beans, low-fat Doritos chips, cucumber and tomato salad.

Tuesday, March 3: Half-day — no lunch.

Wednesday, March 4: Pasta with meat sauce, garlic knot, steamed broccoli, carrots and dip.

Thursday, March 5: Texas toast grilled cheese,

tomato soup, corn and black bean salad, Goldfish crackers.

Friday, March 6: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, garden salad with romaine, chickpeas, cookie.

ROBERTA DOERING SCHOOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, March 2: Hamburger or cheeseburger on whole-grain bun, green beans, low-fat Doritos chips.

Tuesday, March 3: Half-day — no lunch.

Wednesday, March 4: Pasta with meat sauce, two-grain garlic breadstick, steamed broccoli.

Thursday, March 5: Buffalo chicken tenders, rice pilaf, steamed broccoli, garlic knot.

Friday, March 6: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, garden salad with chickpeas, cookie.

BREAKFAST

The daily breakfast entrée menu was not available at press time. All breakfasts include assorted cold cereal, muffins and pastries, cheese sticks, fresh fruit and orange juice.

Serving times: High school, 7 a.m.; junior high, 7:15 a.m.; Granger, 7:55 a.m.; Doering, 8:10 a.m.; Phelps, 8:20 a.m.; Robinson Park, 8:30 a.m.; Clark, 8:35 a.m.

Tuesday is a half-day for election day

Agawam schools have rescheduled a half-day this Tuesday to match the state’s presidential primary election date.

Schools will be in session during morning hours only on Tuesday, March 3. On that day, the high school will dismiss students at 10:50 a.m.; the junior high school, 11:20 a.m.; Doering and Granger schools, 11:50 a.m.; and Clark, Phelps and Robinson Park schools, 12:20 p.m. School lunch will not be served.

The following day, March 4, will be a full day of school.

Agawam schools will serve as polling places for the March 3 primary election, which will include ballots for president and for state senator. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

HCSS-WEST HONOR ROLL

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Hampden Charter School of Science-West celebrated its honor roll students for second marking period of 2019-20 with an assembly on Feb. 26.

HCSS-West is a tuition free public charter school on Main Street in West Springfield, serving students from Agawam, Holyoke, Westfield and West Springfield. For more information, visit west.hampdencharter.org.

The following students from Agawam were named to the honor roll.

Grade 10: Arielle Rinaldi, Emma Stoudemire.

Grade 9: Alisha Ali, Nicholas Caputo, Abigail Lee, Yusuf Ucar.

Grade 8: Isabella Castro, Bradford deVillier, Amber Fedor, Elifsu Kasti, Riley Park, Sienna Rudzik, Yusuf Topcuoglu.

Grade 7: Lucas Depalo, Hatice Kaplan, Catherine McFadden.

Grade 6: Antonio Castro, Robert Dean Fleagle, Esat Gunay, Brianna Stevenson.

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Agawam Advertiser

Opinion

OUR VIEW

Give up your tribe for Lent

This is the time of year when churches talk about what Jesus Christ gave up — his life — to benefit humanity. What will you give up?

For traditional Christians, Ash Wednesday this week was the start of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer, self-examination and self-denial leading up to commemorations of Jesus' death and resurrection.

As part of their observance, many Christians choose something to "give up" during Lent — usually something material, and often something that's unhealthy anyway, such as candy or alcohol or tobacco. Foregoing a favorite indulgence can be difficult, and cutting out a vice can improve one's health, but in the wider array of personal behaviors one can give up, there are harder habits to break, and greater improvements to be found.

Rather than — or in addition to — boosting one person's wellbeing, why not make a sacrifice that will contribute to the health of our society, our democracy, and our future?

Give up your tribe.

America has made remarkable progress tearing down the old distinctions that divided us. Distrust and prejudice among genders, races, economic classes, religions and geographic regions is less of a factor now than at any time in our nation's history. That's not to say these prejudices have been eliminated, nor to suggest that we shouldn't continue to fight them. But we've made remarkable progress.

One form of prejudice and intolerance is sharply on the rise, however, and it threatens the core of our community. Even as our physical communities have become more integrated, the anonymity of the Internet and the fragmentation of media have led to an intellectual segregation — a self-sorting of Americans into virtual tribes of like-thinking individuals, choosing to associate mainly with those who hold similar political and cultural opinions, and — this is the worst part — increasingly intolerant of those who disagree.

Mainstream Democrats speak of mainstream Republicans (and vice versa) as not merely misguided, but evil. Republicans seek to destroy Democrats (and vice versa), rather than trying to convince them. The extremes of both parties look on their moderate wings not as potential allies but as dangerous traitors. Politics has become not a debate but a war. We try to win battles instead of understanding each other.

This primitive tribal behavior is killing our democracy. Give it up.

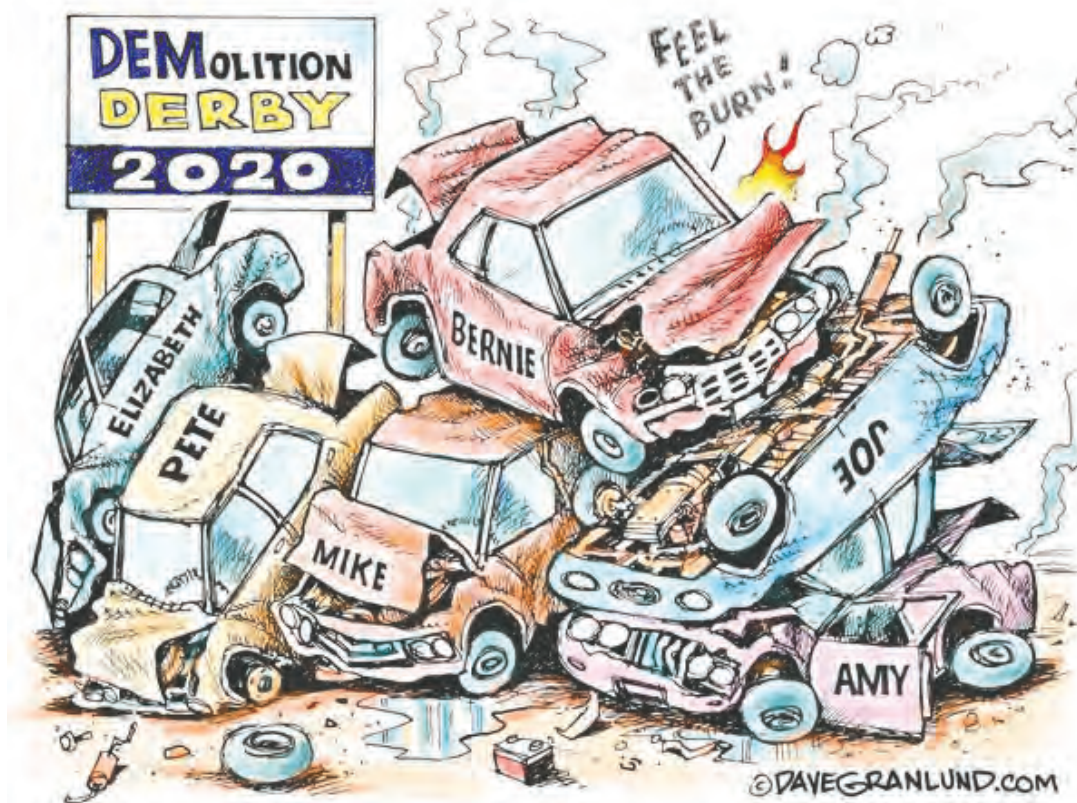
This Lent — or this political season, if you prefer — give up the satisfying self-righteousness of the tribal warrior. Listen to a rival's opinion rather than just waiting for an opening for an ad-hominem attack. Try to convert an opponent instead of defeating him. Acknowledge every time that we are all Americans first and that the incredible diversity of America results in a bewildering diversity of experience and opinion. For that matter, we are all humans — and none of us is closer to the divine, or closer to perfection, than any other.

The man who made the first Lenten sacrifice, 2,000 years ago, also wanted his followers to give up their tribes, to see the humanity in their enemies, to treat others with equal respect and charity.

Not everyone believes in his story, or worships at his church. But the message of kindness and empathy doesn't require a particular god or catechism. It can be found in religions, philosophies and ethical systems from cultures all around the world.

Truth and righteousness are not the sole possessions of any political party. Give up the tribes. Return to a true community — our town, our nation, our planet.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



Letters to the Editor

Council should approve CPA funds for 40B

I am writing regarding some of the issues raised at the Feb. 18 City Council meeting about CPA funds for the Way Finders Rosewood Way development.

There was an objection to using the tax dollars of residents who were opposed, for something they did not want. The state match comes from a surcharge on real estate transactions paid to the Registry of Deeds by the entire state, so are not Agawam tax dollars from the 1 percent surcharge on the property tax. To designate state funds for Rosewood Way is respectful of the wishes of residents in opposition, while acting in the best interest of the town as a whole, especially the many residents who will be eligible for the development when it is completed.

Regarding units for senior housing, it is not legal to designate units for seniors, which is why the Way Finders representative had to reply there would be none. But there are 20 one-bedroom units which naturally will be for seniors, or younger people, another great need in our town for kids who grow up here, but cannot afford to stay.

Many questions were raised about the 70 percent local preference, with some councilors wanting a guarantee. Local preference is approved, not by HUD, as was stated, but by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, so there is no way to guarantee

anything until that decision is made by the state. It is important that the council demonstrate a significant financial commitment by the town to the state when they consider whether to give the development local preference, and determine the amount or percentage of local preference to approve. Agawam's Housing Needs Assessment (available on the town website, www.agawam.ma, under "Housing") along with the lengthy wait time for Agawam Housing Authority units show the need in town, and that information was communicated to the state.

There were some negative comments about Way Finders, including the implication that they were threatening to make a lesser-quality development if the town did not approve the CPA funds. While Way Finders wants a high quality development as much as we do, the reality and bottom line is that developers have to make the numbers work. If there is not enough money to pay for everything planned, they have to look at what can be eliminated until the money and plans match.

There also was a statement that Way Finders only came to Agawam because we have land, and are not wanted in other towns, which is not the case. Amherst, Northampton and Easthampton all gave CPA funds to Way Finders for developments in their communities. And to be

clear, Ludlow did not stop the 40B development in their town. It is still in the 40B process, and will be built when that is completed.

To criticize Way Finders for taking three years to break ground on Rosewood Way while building new offices in Springfield is to misunderstand the agency and the affordable housing process. Way Finders, like other nonprofit affordable housing developers, works on many developments and projects simultaneously, and planning and putting together financing for a development takes a lot of work and time. The 40B process with our Agawam ZBA itself took eight months. Way Finders does serve the entire Pioneer Valley region with multiple programs. A well-located central office, accessible by public transportation, and with adequate and appropriate space, is essential for them to fulfill their mission. As our council president, who is very knowledgeable about affordable housing development, stated, Way Finders is a highly respected developer and we are fortunate to have them in our town.

I hope the council will approve a significant amount of the state match of CPA funds for Rosewood Way, which is greatly needed in Agawam by people living here now, our neighbors and friends.

Corinne M. Wingard
Agawam

Our Back Pages

From yesteryear's editions of the Agawam Advertiser News, compiled by Michael Ballway.

A year ago: The Agawam Fire Department was preparing to purchase a new \$247,000 ambulance in March 2019. AFD had long operated two ambulances at a time — one based at the Main Street headquarters, the other in Feeding Hills — but in recent years there have been enough medical calls to justify a third unit. Increased receipts paid for the vehicle itself, though Fire Chief Alan Sirois predicted there would be some taxpayer cost to hire additional paramedics.

Five years ago: Brownie boosters were packing arenas around Western Massachusetts to cheer Agawam High School's boys varsity ice hockey team, in the midst of

a Division 3 playoff run, reported the March 5, 2015, Agawam Advertiser News. Student fans organized "black outs" and "white outs" where they wore the same colors, and at least two fans show their spirit with black suits and sunglasses, orange bowties and orange face paint.

Ten years ago: Agawam independent Anthony Bonavita and Southwick Republican Nicholas Boldyga have announced challenges to Democratic incumbent state Rep. Rosemary Sandlin, reported the March 4, 2010, Agawam Advertiser News, while Robert Rossi has withdrawn his name as a potential challenger. Later in the month, the field would grow to also include Mark Del Negro of Agawam as a primary challenger to Sandlin, and Republican Peter McNair of Agawam. Boldyga would end up defeating Sandlin in a close November election.



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COMMENTARY

Chamber education, networking efforts address region’s needs

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce is entering this new decade working hard to make Western Massachusetts a place where businesses want to start, stay, and prosper. As they start a new year, one of their main focuses will be on the region’s skilled trade employment crisis. Helping our area’s local manufacturing and trade businesses obtain the necessary employees they desperately seek is vital to Western Massachusetts’ growth. Having these businesses remain here in the Pioneer Valley gives the local residents the opportunity to obtain a career, and grow roots right here, which will ensure a productive economy as a whole.

The WRC recognizes that there are approximately 500 machinists’ jobs vacant in the commonwealth on any given day. This affects local business and industry, due to the fact that they cannot hire skilled machinists, and therefore, machine shops cannot operate at maximum capacity. Lower productivity means lower incoming revenue for the communities they are in. In an

effort to alleviate this challenge, the WRC Education Committee has established a mentoring and job shadowing program in conjunction with the local high schools and businesses of the area. The committee pairs high school seniors with a business of their interest where they will learn the trade to see if it may be a potential career path.

The Education Committee, along with the local high schools and junior high schools, also create career days, career fairs and career panel discussions to educate the students on a variety of career paths in our region. The more the students are introduced to a wide variety of potential focuses, the more opportunities they will have to succeed in our community.

The West of the River Chamber 501c3 Foundation has formed a focus group with the Agawam school system. The focus group’s efforts have resulted in a very im-

portant program at the high school.

At Agawam High School, a course has been implemented in their STEM program to introduce students to the vocation of a machinist. This program opened for freshmen last January, and each year will pick up a grade until all high school grades are participating. There has been overwhelming support for this new program and it is seeing expansion in the near future.

Another way the WRC is focused on finding workers to fill jobs in Western Massachusetts is its annual job fair. This event provides the businesses looking to hire with the local residents looking for career opportunities. Bridging this gap is an essential part of the WRC mission and the success in our region as a whole.

The West of the River Chamber also provides an impressive marketing format for its members to promote their businesses in

ways that reach a far wider area. The success of small business is vital for the progress of Western Massachusetts and its economy. Collaborative networking breakfasts, speed networking lunches, After 5 socials, and educational Lunch & Learn programs offer members the chance to meet and build lasting business relationships with business men and women from all over our region. The WRC provides the tools necessary and enable businesses to market themselves in a stronger more viable environment.

In 2020, WRC intends to continue to collaborate with the businesses in Western Massachusetts. And to assist our community in finding quality local residents to fill the jobs necessary to ensure Western Massachusetts prospers and succeeds as a vibrant region.

Robin Wozniak is an Agawam resident and executive director of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce, which serves the business community of Agawam and West Springfield.



Robin Wozniak

LEMANSKI ■ from page 1

live on and benefit students once I’ve retired. The strategic plan will remain as a stabilizing resource for the district to move forward for the upcoming school year and possibly beyond,” he said.

However, he acknowledged he’s leaving one of the district’s largest tasks uncompleted — the proposed redistricting of elementary schools and bringing Early Childhood Center preschoolers into those schools to create neighborhood pre-K through grade 4 schools.

Prior to his appointment, Lemanski was at the high school as assistant principal and principal for a decade. Lemanski was the unanimous choice of the School Committee in the spring of 2017 to succeed former superintendent — and now mayor — William Sapelli upon his retirement.

Lemanski explained that when he became superintendent, the district and the school committee were “invested” in trying to solve the “ECC dilemma.” They had long viewed the “temporary” ECC building at Perry Lane Park as aging and outdated, but couldn’t agree on a plan or a site, or find funding, for its replacement. At one point, officials seemed likely to push for a new pre-kindergarten and kindergarten school.

Instead, last year, at the end of Lemanski’s second year, the direction for a new ECC shifted in response to cost estimates of \$25 million for the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten building, or \$17 million for a new standalone ECC. Rather than moving kindergarten out of the neighborhood elementary schools, officials now proposed moving pre-kindergarten in.

“Our current plan to house ECC preschoolers in the elementary schools will save a considerable amount of money for taxpayers of Agawam and allow for other town priorities to move forward,” said Lemanski. There will be some additional costs for redistricting and restructuring work, Lemanski added, but at “a substantially lower dollar amount” than a new facility.

“I’m proud of what the district is trying to accomplish in resolving this more than 20-year dilemma at a significantly lower

cost,” he added. “By careful financial planning, we hope to have a minimal increase to support providing an ECC solution.”

Lemanski said although he will leave before the plan is implemented in September 2021, he feels he’s set a foundation for it to move forward.

“I’m somewhat disappointed I won’t be working in the district when the initiative comes to fruition,” he said. “However, there is a strong elementary administrative team in place that will work diligently to accomplish the task. In addition, there’s a steering committee in place that will continue to work toward completing redistricting/restructuring.”

Concluding a career

Lemanski said he’s been planning and preparing for retirement for many years. He said his recent decision was linked to many factors, including deaths in recent years of his mother, father-in-law and mother-in-law.

“Those experiences, looking at my age and years of work, my wife’s retirement two years ago, have been factors in my decision to retire. Certainly, reaching retirement eligibility is also a factor,” said Lemanski, 60, who will retire after a 35-year career in education that began in Chicopee.

“I’m honored to have had the opportunity to serve in this district as its superintendent of schools and to be able to conclude my career in Agawam,” Lemanski wrote in letter dated Jan. 31 that was sent to School Committee members.

“I wish Steve would have stayed longer, but I’m happy for him,” said committee Vice Chairman Carmino Mineo. “He’s making a decision he feels is best for himself and his family.”

Added Anthony Bonavita, “I’m disappointed, but it’s his personal decision and I don’t think we should question it.”

Shelley Borgatti-Reed said although she hates to see Lemanski leave, she understands that retirement is “a big decision.” She wishes he would have stayed longer because of the elementary school restructuring.

“Steve played a big role in the development of these changes, and I was hoping he could stay to see them through,” said Borgatti-Reed.

School board wants new supt. hired before Lemanski leaves

Now that School Superintendent Steve Lemanski has announced he will retire in June, the Agawam School Committee is faced with the task of hiring his successor.

The outgoing superintendent, who will not be involved in the process to select his successor, said in his retirement letter that he had the “the privilege and good fortune” of working with a committee that is “progressive and supportive.”

Lemanski said he expects the committee will schedule an executive session soon to discuss the search for a new superintendent. He anticipates that a new school chief will be in the position by July 1.

School Committee members Anthony Bonavita, Shelley Borgatti-Reed, Carmino Mineo and Wendy Rua were involved in the superintendent selection three years ago. All agreed that hiring a superintendent is one of the most important roles of the committee, but they expressed some differences about the process this time around.

Bonavita and Borgatti-Reed want to see a change in way candidates are scored.

Wendy Rua said Agawam was “fortunate” to benefit from Lemanski’s leadership and commitment to the district for many years in his various roles.

“As we move forward with redistricting and the transition of our ECC preschoolers into our existing elementary schools, I do wish that Mr. Lemanski would be staying the course to lead these projects until implementation,” she said.

Committee members expressed confidence in the current team of administrators as well as the steering committee to shepherd the transition of preschoolers to elementary schools. Borgatti-Reed said Assistant Superintendent Sheila Hoffman

“I want to make sure the process is fair and organized from start to finish,” said Borgatti-Reed.

“I didn’t like the grading system by numbers,” added Bonavita. “I would like to use a different way of choosing, other than by scoring with numbers on questions.”

He also said all meetings of the committee during the process should be public, with all committee members making the decision.

“The committee has a very big job ahead of us in the selection of a new superintendent,” said Rua. She pledged that the committee “will do so with transparency and community input and will take our time to hire the best candidate for the position.”

Mineo said he thought the process used by the committee three years ago was “transparent and efficient.” But he said the committee “will need to move quickly to start the hiring process in order to get the best applicants.”

Lemanski said he expects to work closely with whoever is appointed to bring him or her “up to speed” on where things stand in the district.

is very knowledgeable on the redistricting and restructuring process.

“I have no doubt that she will help to guide us through it,” Borgatti-Reed said.

“Especially with Mayor Sapelli and his background, along with the input of committee members Steve chose, I firmly believe it can be achieved,” added Bonavita.

Although several retired principals have served as consultants to the district, Lemanski said he’s not sure at this time if he wants to take on such a role following his departure.

“At this time, I would like to step away and find out what comes next in retirement.”

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Legion Auxiliary dinner honors hero teen who saved sister's life

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

Already hailed as a hero for saving his sister's life, 14-year-old Bradford deVillier made it official by receiving a National Hero Award from the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 185, last weekend.

Auxiliary member Elizabeth Melchiori presented him with the award at a Feb. 23 ceremony attended by all Auxiliary members, American Legion state leadership, as well as members of the deVillier family, Bradford's principal and his commander in the Westover Young Marines, the mayor, and many family friends.

"There are so many young people who don't get the credit they deserve," said Melchiori. "We are here today to make sure that this young man — this Young Marine, at that — gets the honor he deserves. Thank you, Bradford."

DeVillier and his older sister, Christina, were working at the Harmon Smith Field concession stand during a field hockey game coached by their mother last October. When Christina began choking on a piece of candy, deVillier stepped into action.

He explained that while he was calm and assessed the situation, there was still some panic underlying, because it was his sister who was in trouble.

"Oh my gosh, I had no idea what to do in that situation, I just thought about what to do for the Heimlich maneuver," deVillier recalled on Sunday. "No one was behind the counter and the stand has a big, heavy door, so I realized, 'Oh, I have to do this. I should do this, I'm the only one who can, really.' It was a little nerve-racking because I didn't know if I was going to do it right, but in the end, when I finally got the candy out, it was the best feeling that I've ever felt in the world."

His mother Sue deVillier, a banker in town, attested to how calm and controlled her son was. He called her

immediately after the incident, and though she left the sideline immediately, she was not alarmed because Bradford had been so calm.

"He's very humble about it, he's just like, 'She's my sister, I was supposed to save her,'" she said. "When the news interviewed him, he said, 'You know, she's just about my size and I knew I would be the best one to do it.' He's very logical and humble, so for him to be up in the limelight is huge for him. He's very reserved but he's a smart kid, and he's sure of himself."

In addition to being honored by the American Legion Auxiliary, deVillier also received awards and citations from the commander of his unit of the Young Marines, Sgt. Major Edward Mitrook; the principal of his school, Mehmet Cogal of Hampden Charter School of Science-West; and Agawam Mayor William Sapelli.

"From both myself and the City Council, in recognition of your courageous action, on behalf of all the citizens, the City Council and myself want to thank you on your outstanding efforts and we're so proud to say that you are a member of our community," Sapelli said. He added: "I've met Bradford on several occasions. Every time I see him he's such a gentleman, for a young man at this age. I'm so proud to be here tonight and to be able to give you a certificate of appreciation."

American Legion dignitaries at the event included the Massachusetts commander, Jodi Pajak, and the Auxiliary's Massachusetts third vice president, Jennifer Hamre.

"I'm so proud to be in this room of veterans, and with the future of our country. This is amazing, we're in good hands," Hamre said. "At the department of Massachusetts, our theme this year is 'proud to be an American.' This is our pin and I have one for you because you make me proud to be an American."

Hamre was not the only proud American in

the room. Bradford's sister Christina deVillier said, "You've done such a nice job and a lot of hard work for your school, your Marines, the community, and you saved my life. You have done such a great job working in the community of Agawam. You're my brother and I love you. Thank you, Brad."

Auxiliary centennial

Recognizing a local hero wasn't the sole reason for the gathering, as American Legion Auxiliary Unit 185 was also celebrating its 100th year of service. Melchiori explained how proud she was of their unit, and how it's changing.

"We're referred to as the largest women's patriotic organization, but now we have to expand that, because male spouses of veterans are allowed to join, which is a great thing," she said. "There are so many female veterans that must be recognized in any way possible, and having their spouses join will perfect what we are already doing. We are celebrating a hundred years in existence this year. Our main goal is to first support the constitution of the United States of America and second, to support our military."

Sapelli presented Melchiori with a proclamation signed by himself and the City Council president, Christopher Johnson.

"The Auxiliary Association is dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy while working to make a difference in the lives of veterans, military, and their family," Sapelli said. "This is an



The commander of the Westover Young Marines, Sgt. Maj. Edward Mitrook, awards Agawam resident Bradford deVillier, as American Legion Auxiliary Unit 185 President Elizabeth Melchiori looks on.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



Hero Award recipient Bradford deVillier stands with his principal Mehmet Cogal from Hampden Charter School of Science-West, fifth from left, and Mayor William Sapelli, third from left, along with American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members, from left, Joseph Calise, Darcie Calise, Elizabeth Melchiori, Kelly Horton, Susan Horton, Wilma Gillan, Ruth Gillan and Terri Cima.

opportunity to recognize these important women in our community for their many contributions to the town of Agawam for the past hundred years."

The local Auxiliary is paired with Wilson-Thompson American Legion Post 185 at 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.



Christina deVillier gives a brief speech thanking her brother for saving her life.



Elizabeth Melchiori receives a proclamation in recognition of the American Legion Auxiliary's work from Agawam Mayor William Sapelli, as Legion Auxiliary members Kelly Horton, Susan Horton and Wilma Gillan, seated from left, look on.



Members of the deVillier family gather to congratulate Bradford on his Hero Award. From left are Charlotte, Sean, Bradford, Christina, Sue and Katelyn deVillier.

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SPORTS

MIAA

Final vote for state tournament looms this week

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

It comes down to a meeting scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28 at 9:45 a.m. to decide whether the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will move forward with a proposal to have a statewide postseason tournament, and eliminate the sectional tournaments.

The vote will take place at special meeting of the Board of Directors at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School beginning at 9:45 a.m.

The meeting will be held for representatives from the 380 members schools, all of which will have a vote on the proposal.

For Western and Central Massachusetts, the statewide tournament proposal would create a 32-team state tournament with additional teams vying to qualify by a .500 record.

It would eliminate the sectional tournaments that currently take place in most sports.

Overall, the proposal has seen some resistance from many athletic directors in Western Mass., who believe the statewide proposal favors the eastern part of the state.

Another contentious issue is how the teams will be ranked. Because of the diversity of teams and leagues in Western Massachusetts, the region has used the Walker system for many years. It factors elements like wins, wins against other qualifying teams, and strength of schedule, applying point values to teams in certain leagues.

The Western Mass. tournament, starting next year, and then state tournaments, if they are voted through for the fall 2021, would be ranked using MaxPreps.

One of many questions brought up during various informational meetings and discussions about the proposal is how exactly MaxPreps will rank the teams. However the rankings system is not made very clear. Coaches and athletic directors will be required to enter win-loss and result information to the MaxPreps website, but the formula to determine rankings is "proprietary" and is not being disclosed publicly, leaving athletic directors with questions about whether the system will be fair to teams throughout the state.

Unlike the eastern side of the state, many teams in Western Mass. are disbursed into leagues with teams in multiple divisions. The Walker system takes that format into account.

The meeting is scheduled to

BOYS BASKETBALL

Brownies prevail in league game



CHICOPEE – The Agawam High School boys basketball had a moderate level of success against Suburban League rival Chicopee Comprehensive. The Brownies took a second matchup on the road last Monday night, defeating the Colts 64-47. In the victory, Agawam's offense was in sync with four players notching double digits. Max Blanton and Mike Berthiaume each had 17 points to lead scorers. Zach Moccio had 15 points and Matt Hotaling had 10 points.

Left: Mike Berthiaume flies for a layup.

Right: Evan Lyne bends down to take a shot.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Zach Moccio underhands a layup for the Brownies.



Max Blanton reaches out for a shot.



Jermaine Norfleet tries to make another shot for Agawam during the Brownies game at Chicopee Comprehensive last week.

HOCKEY

Disappointing season ends for Agawam hockey

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Realignment could not come quicker for the Agawam High School ice hockey team, which saw yet another disappointing season come to a conclusion last week.

It ended in tough fashion as the Brownies only mustered a 3-3 draw with Southwick, a team only in its second varsity season.

Since going to the state championship in 2015 (where it lost 2-1), the hockey team has faltered when several seniors that were of larger size and advance skill, all graduated. The Western Mass. Division 3 champion team, then was left to rebuild.

Numbers declined and the

number of players who were avid hockey players also dwindled. Local players who were of higher stature went to play in other programs, and Agawam has not seen a playoff game since that state title run.

Agawam was mired in a rivalry with then-Holyoke and later South Hadley in Division 3A until winning the 2013 state championship, toppling South Hadley in the Western Mass. finals. The momentum moved Agawam back into Division 3 and into the Berry League with the top teams in Western Massachusetts, including Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, West Springfield, Minnechaug, and Westfield. Ludlow was also in the league but has since moved back into the Fay

Division.

Agawam sought relief after last year, but no team in the Fay or Wright Division was willing to switch with them, leaving them to remain in the league until realignment, which takes place after next season.

That same realignment could have big changes if the statewide tournament is past. The divisions would change, as could Agawam's regular season opponents.

The Brownies went with a much-less difficult schedule this season. Agawam took several Eastern Mass. teams off the slate which were too much for the younger Brownies to handle. Instead, Agawam's independent schedule was against teams in the region from Division 3A. Agawam

would meet South Hadley, Ludlow, Greenfield, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Belchertown, Amherst, and Southwick during the season.

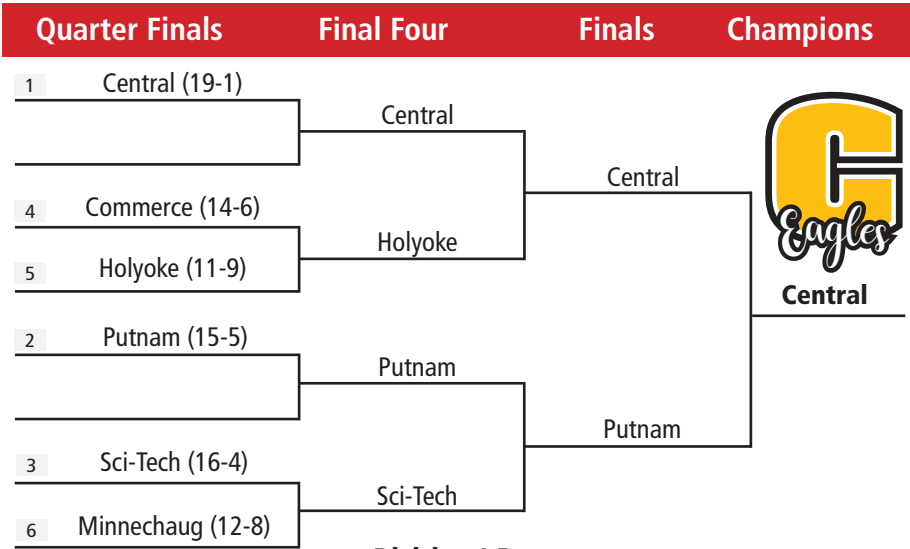
The lighter schedule did not help, as the Brownies only managed wins against Ludlow, Greenfield, and Chicopee Comp during the regular season. Agawam's lone league win this season came in late December, a 2-1 upset of East Longmeadow. The Spartans then exacted revenge, beating Agawam 4-0 later in the season.

In their final match up of the season, Agawam did start the game with a 1-0 lead over Southwick, converting on a power play, but the game was tight, and the Brownies had to settle for the draw.

Western Mass. Basketball Bracketology

Editor's Note: These brackets represent Turley Sports picks for the upcoming basketball tournaments. They are for the enjoyment of our readers. Please play along and compare your brackets to ours and see if you can pick the winners, too.

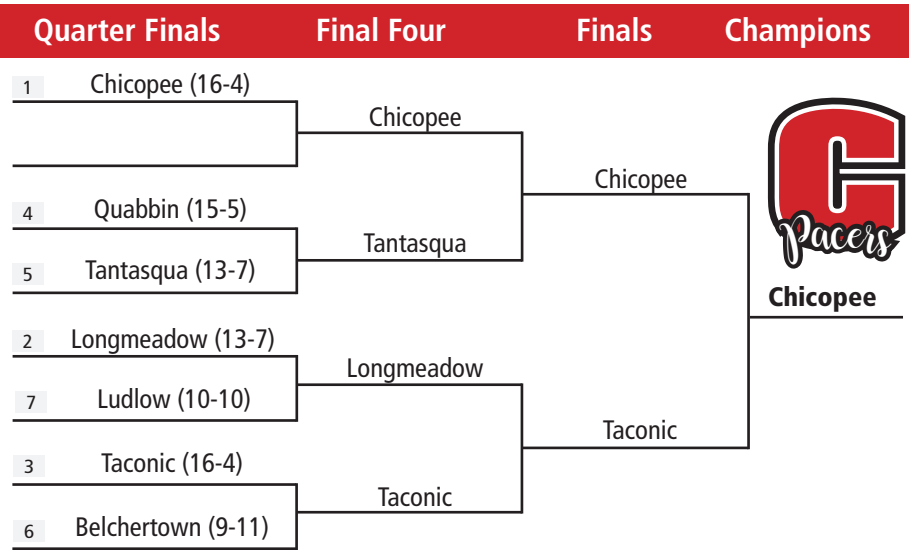
DIVISION 1 BOYS



Division 1 Boys

Central had a bounce-back season after losing a few games last season. The Golden Eagles lost just once this season. Holyoke will reach the semifinals, but will fall to Central. Putnam and Sci-Tech will go at it in the other semifinal, with Putnam prevailing. Central beats Putnam in the finals.

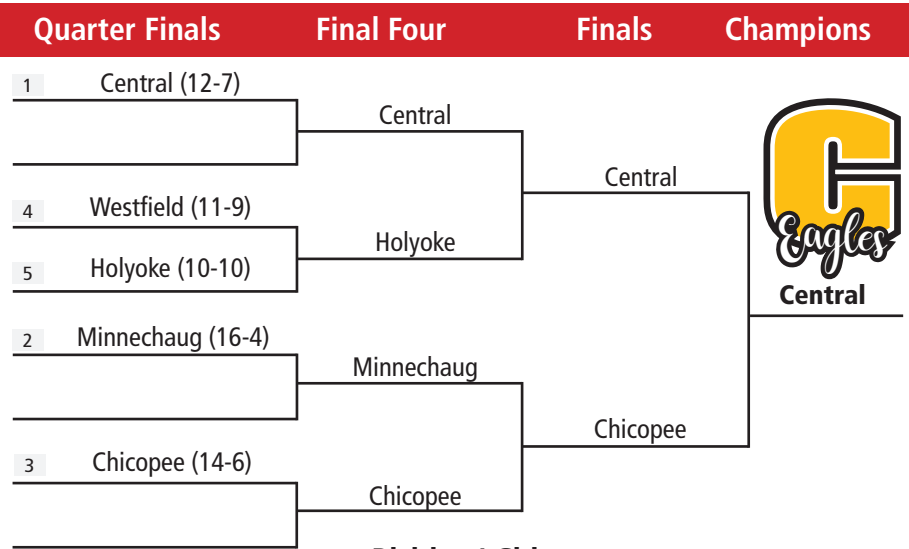
DIVISION 2 BOYS



Division 2 Boys

Chicopee continues to get better and earns the top seed in the D2 tourney. We think this year will be the Pacers' year, led by 1,000-point scorer Kobe Parker. Ludlow and Belchertown will reach tournament for the first time in a while. But both will fall to more experienced playoff teams.

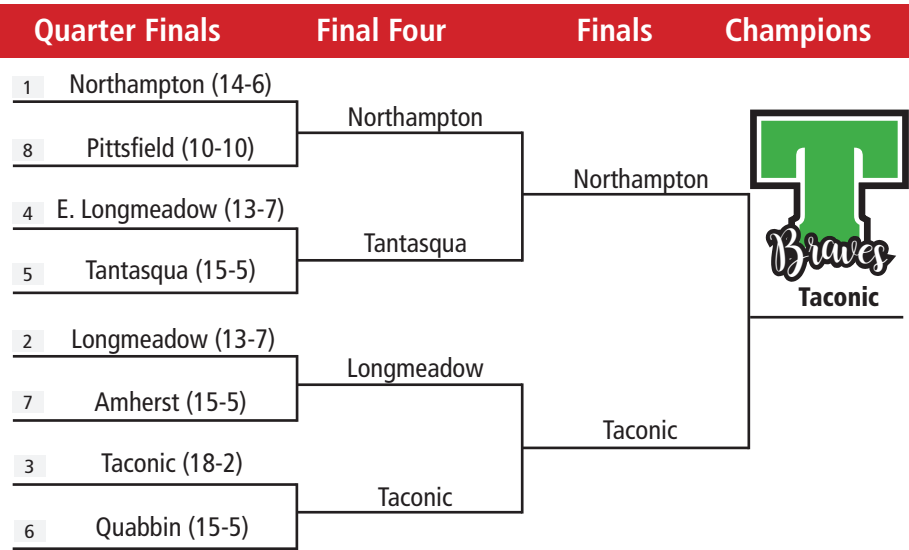
DIVISION 1 GIRLS



Division 1 Girls

Central is tough to knock off, but Minnechaug managed it earlier this season. But Central has come along of late. Minnechaug had a strong season, but the injury of a top player could hurt in the playoffs. We pick Chicopee to come out and challenge Central for the title.

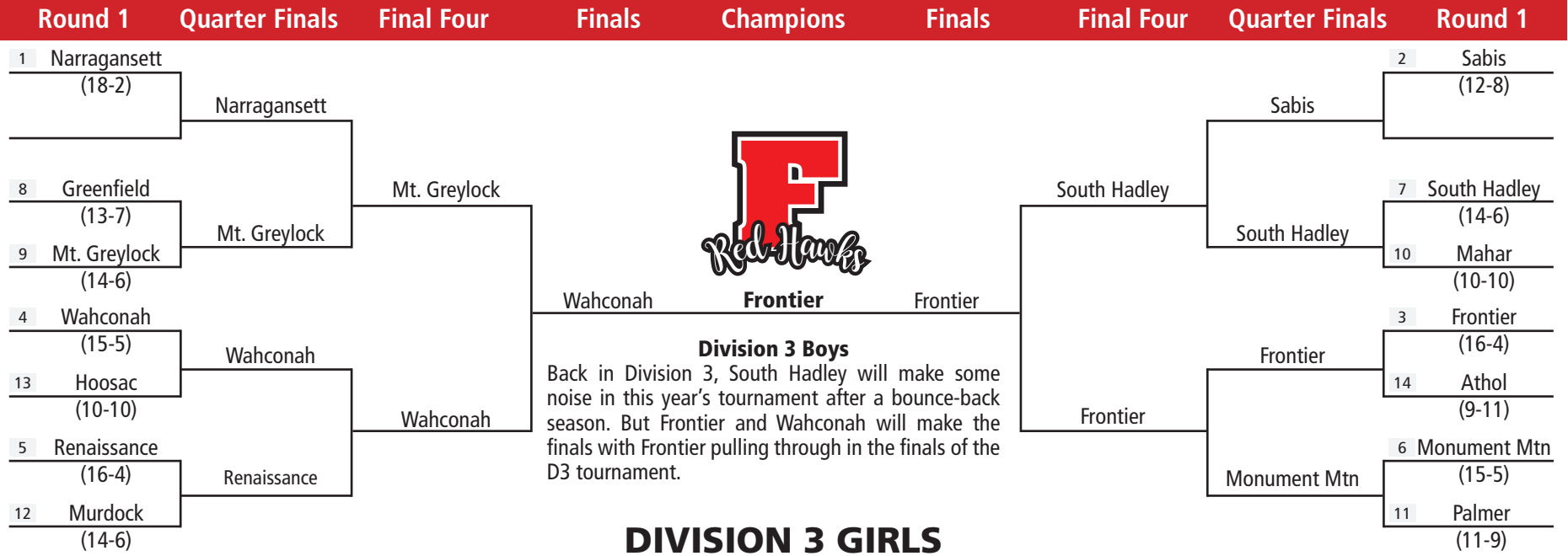
DIVISION 2 GIRLS



Division 2 Girls

Northampton will be upset in the finals by Taconic, which plays a Berkshire schedule and won 18 games this season. Quabbin and Tantasqua fall in the earlier rounds.

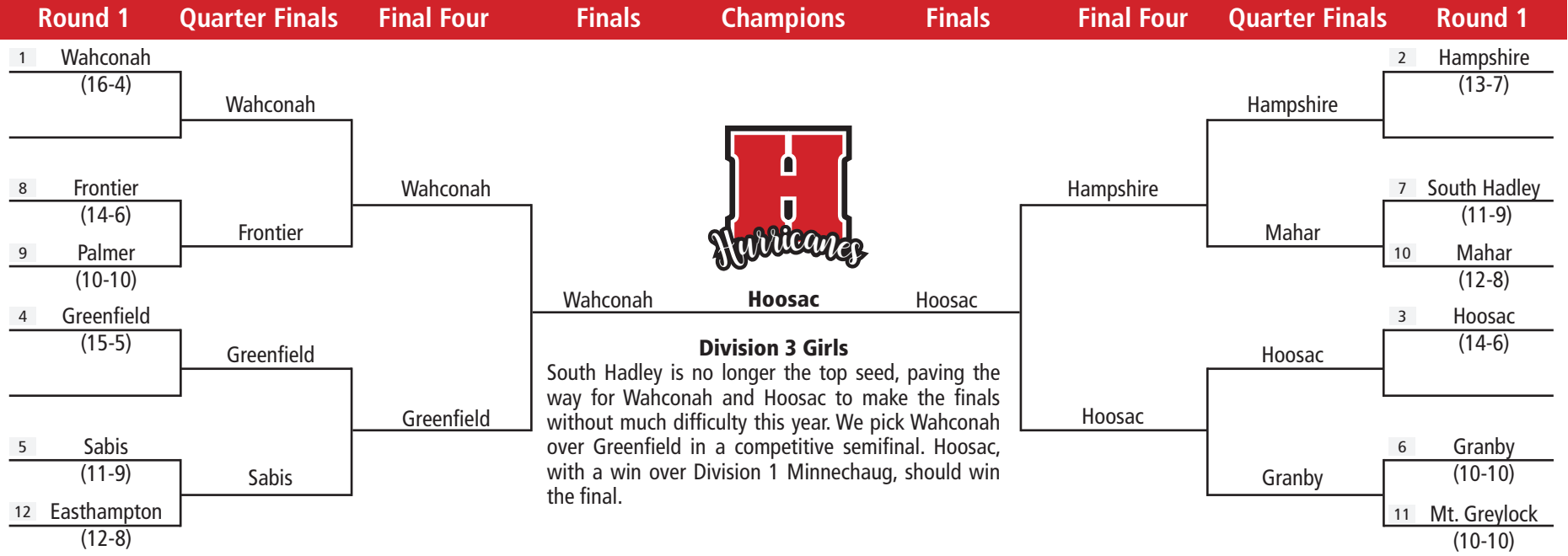
DIVISION 3 BOYS



Division 3 Boys

Back in Division 3, South Hadley will make some noise in this year's tournament after a bounce-back season. But Frontier and Wahconah will make the finals with Frontier pulling through in the finals of the D3 tournament.

DIVISION 3 GIRLS

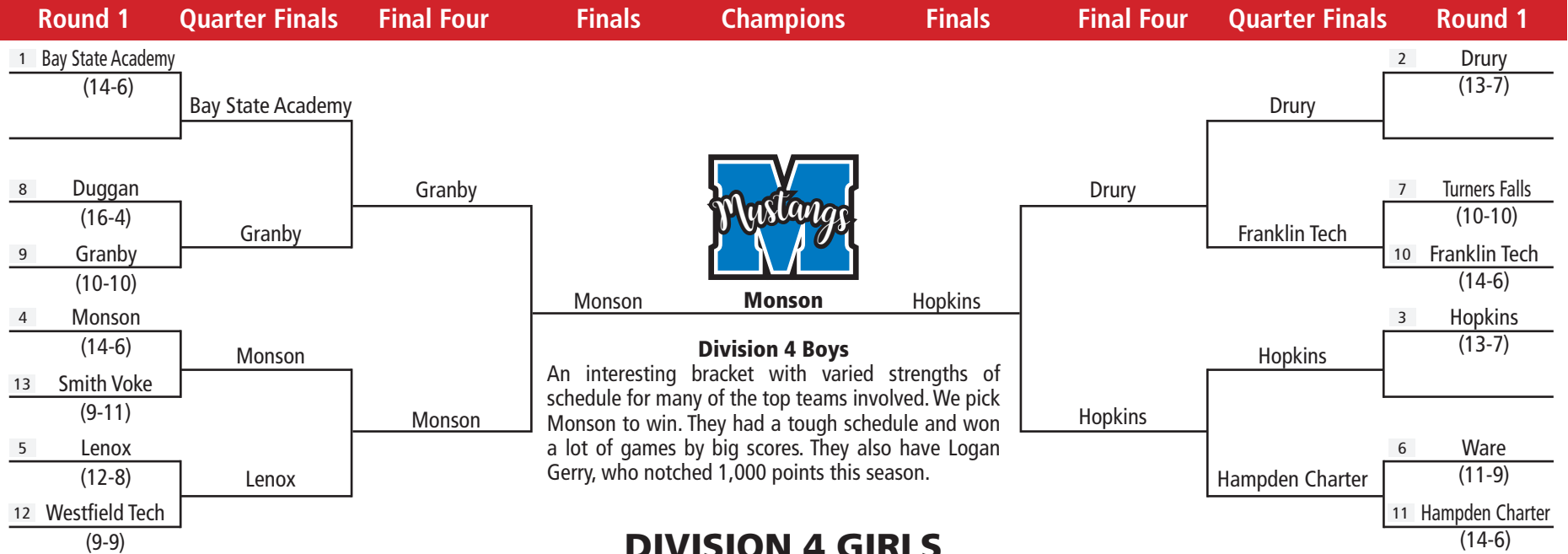


Division 3 Girls

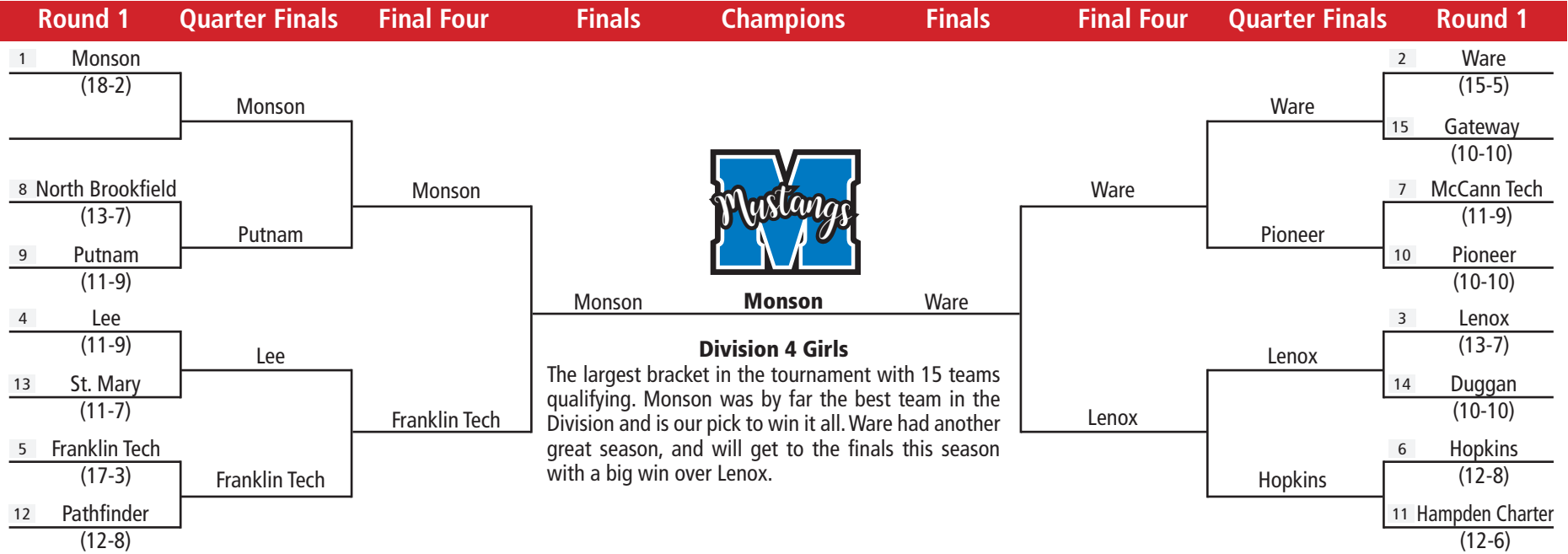
South Hadley is no longer the top seed, paving the way for Wahconah and Hoosac to make the finals without much difficulty this year. We pick Wahconah over Greenfield in a competitive semifinal. Hoosac, with a win over Division 1 Minnechaug, should win the final.

Western Mass. Basketball Bracketology

DIVISION 4 BOYS



DIVISION 4 GIRLS



Webb basketball tournament set to take place in March

CHICOPEE — This year marks the 35th year Kevin Vann has enjoyed coaching youth basketball—and for 16 of those years, he has provided young people in Greater Springfield and Northern Connecticut with the chance to play in a competitive tournament.

As the founder of the George Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament, which supports the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, Vann was proud to announce this year to sponsors and participants that the event topped the \$200,000 fundraising mark in 2019.

“Thank you for standing with me over the past 16 years, supporting the kids of the club,” he said. “I have a deep passion for basketball, yet my 35 years of coaching pales in comparison to the 108 years that the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee has been there every day for the now 358 boys and girls of this city. They are children who desperately need encouragement, companionship, challenge and opportunity to help them grow into responsible and respected human beings.”

The largest basketball tournament of its kind, the 15-day event tips off on March 13 at the club, ending on March 28. Each year, the tourney draws hundreds of spectators to watch more than 40 teams of boys and girls play.

Vann founded the George Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament in 2005 to honor his late friend, George Webb, who died

of cancer at age 52 in 2004. A basketball player who shot hoops at the club on Tuesday evenings, Webb rarely lost a game, and, Vann said, “When he did, he showed true sportsmanship to whoever he was playing against.”

Vann and his business, The Vann Group of Springfield, a professional services outsourcing company, have sponsored the tournament since its start. And it has been held at the club it supports since the beginning as well.

“The George Webb Basketball Tournament embodies the values of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee,” Vann said. “It’s an even competition for teams of boys and girls aged 8 to 13 who have varying abilities as ball players.”

For the second year in a row, Daishany Miller of Chicopee was named the club’s Youth of the Year. To achieve the title of Youth of the Year, a club member must embody the values of leadership and service, academic excellence, and healthy lifestyles. The Youth of the Year serves as a role model for other young people in the club and as a representative to the community.

Drawn to investigate the club in 2014, Miller, 19, soon adopted it as a second home and learned how to thrive as a leader. “It takes strength to fit in and courage to stand out,” Miller said. “The club is there for me and encourages me to take the steps I need to strive to be a better version of myself.”

Vann said the tournament has allowed

thousands of young people to experience the safe haven that is the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, play a sport and develop values that will last them a lifetime.

The club has a mission to fill the gap between school and home. According to a national organization called the Afterschool Alliance, every day, 362,312 children in Massachusetts leave school with nowhere to go with an adult present.

The club offers activities, resources, supportive relationships with peers and adults and programs that can be life-changing, and it served 1,802 young people last year; 358 were members, and the other 1,444 were served through community outreach programs.

The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee has two locations in town and is staffed by 30 adults and 50 volunteers.

Seventy-one percent of those who are nurtured at the club are 12 and younger; the others are teenagers. Of the total served, 69 percent are in minority ethnic groups and 32 percent are in single-parent households.

For more information about the tournament, visit bgcchicopee.org/george-webb-memorial-basketball-tournament/. For information on sponsorship opportunities, visit georgewebbtournament.com or contact Ruth Griggs at (413) 727-3354 or email her at ruth@rccomms.com.

TOURNEY ■ from page 9

begin at 9:45 p.m. The MIAA will hear a final presentation from the Tournament Management Committee and will hear from speakers. According to the press release from the MIAA, speakers will have

limited time to speak, and wish for points not to be repeated to keep the discussion moving.

A final vote is expected to take place just before 11 a.m. Each member school will have one vote, which will come from the member school’s principal or their designee, an athletic director in some cases.

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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4
Agawam Junior High School
1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills

- A. Roll call

B. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

C. Citizen's Speak Time

D. Minutes

1. Regular Council Meeting — Feb. 18, 2020

E. Declaration of council president

F. Presentation of resolutions

1. TR-2019-78 — A Resolution accepting a grant (\$3,064.25) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, in relation to the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (Mayor Sapelli) (Tabled 2/18/20)

2. TR-2020-17 — A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation Funds to assist in the creation of Community Housing at 586 Mill Street, Lot 4, as proposed by Wayfinders, Inc. (CPA) (Referred to Community Relations Committee) (Charter Object 2/18/20)

3. TR-2020-19 — A Resolution accepting a grant (\$90,000.00) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A (Mayor Sapelli)

4. TR-2020-20 — A Resolution to exempt bargaining unit positions within the Agawam School Cafeteria Association from M.G.L. Chapter 31 (Mayor Sapelli) (Referred to Legislative Committee)

5. TR-2020-21 — A Resolution adopting M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 22G (The Brave Act) (Councilors Sandlin and Suffriti) (Referred to Legislative Committee)
6. TR-2020-22 — A Resolution adopting M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 22H (The Brave Act) (Councilors Sandlin and Suffriti)

7. TR-2020-23 — A Resolution authorizing the adoption of Orders of Taking for the Feeding Hills Right of Way Project under the authority of Section 14 of Chapter 40, Chapter 79 and Chapter 84 of the General Laws for the construction and maintenance of MassDOT Project #600513: Transportation Improvement Project South Westfield Street (Route 187) (Mayor Sapelli)

G. Elections

H. Public hearings

I. Old business

1. TO-2020-5 — An Order Amending a Class 2 Dealer's LICENSE to KLC Auto Sales, Inc., 1514 Main Street, Agawam, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee) (Tabled 2/18/20)

2. TOR-2020-1 — An Ordinance to amend Exhibit A of Chapter 49 Section 7(D) of the Code of the Town of Agawam to update the hourly wages for election and census workers (Mayor Sapelli) (Two Readings Required)

3. TO-2020-6 — Budgetary Transfer for the Special Election Primary for the Open State Senate Position \$11,490.00 from Reserve Fund (#16605-57300) to Regular Temporary Personnel Account (#11611-51020) (Mayor Sapelli)

4. TO-2020-7 — Voucher List for MMA Trade Show 2020 (2,246.98)

J. New business: Unavailable at press time.

K. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council

L. Adjournment

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 297 calls for service Feb. 17-23, and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Thursday, Feb. 20
Candise Ann Casillas, 36, of 80 Birch Park Circle, Apt. L, West Springfield, was arrested at 3:12 a.m. on River Street and charged with driving under the influence of liquor, driving with an open container of alcohol, driving without a license, negligent driving, speeding, a marked lanes violation, malicious destruction of property under \$1,200, resisting arrest, and two counts of assault and battery on a police officer.

Friday, Feb. 21
Vanessa Lynn Darasz, 38, of 10 N. Canton Road, Barkhamsted, Conn., was arrested at 7:11 p.m. on South Westfield Street and charged with driving under

the influence of alcohol, driving with an open container of alcohol, a marked lanes violation, and negligent driving.

Saturday, Feb. 22
Daniel George Deveno, 26, of 419 Montcalm St., Apt. 315M, Chicopee, was arrested at 11:35 p.m. on Bridge Street and charged with driving under the influence of liquor, negligent driving and a marked lanes violation.

Sunday, Feb. 23
Jake Anthony Rivest, 19, of 81 Field Road, Longmeadow, was arrested at 5:05 p.m. on River Road and charged with driving without a license, negligent driving, using a false or stolen RMV document, illegally attaching plates to a vehicle, and receiving stolen property under \$1,200. Samuel Lee Jackson, 26, of 510 River Ave., Providence, R.I., was arrested at 6:29 p.m. on Main Street on three warrants, and also charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

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LEARNING ■ from page 1

15 years in the making. The town purchased more than 4 acres of land behind the high school in 2005, with the intention of developing a trail system and allowing science classes to observe nature there. The project was placed on hold for years when the town decided to renovate and reconfigure the athletic fields surrounding AHS.

By last year, when the CPA Committee was able to approve funds to maintain the facility, proposed uses had expanded beyond high school science to include nature-based lessons and inspiration for art, English and other classes, and to serve younger children on field trips.

“This plan has been in existence quite some time,” commented City Councilor Paul Cavallo. “This also goes down to the elementary grades. They will transport kids up there during the year.”

In a letter dated Jan. 13 of this year, the AHS Science Department said its agriculture, biology, environmental science, horticulture and survival science classes are looking forward to Learning Tree amenities such as raised planters accompanied by a shed, and an overlook and nature sampling area. Many of those classes have already been using the forested property for nature observation or

to hone their outdoors and science skills.

There is already a dirt path winding through the planned park. As part of the construction, it will be resurfaced with stone dust, widening in one spot to form a semicircular “outdoor classroom” with a low wall for seating. The path will connect with the existing concrete walkways behind Agawam High School near the baseball and softball fields.

At the CPA Committee meeting on Jan. 22, town Procurement Officer Jennifer Bonfiglio said the school will maintain the garden areas, and the Department of Public Works will continue to look after the rest of the property, as it already does. As it will be open to the public during afternoons and weekends, security cameras will be installed to discourage vandalism.

The \$421,600 covers the low bid of \$383,275 by R.L. Construction Corp. of West Springfield, and a 10 percent contingency fund. J.L. is the same company that built the Agawam Dog Park at Shea Field.

“This is money well spent,” said Councilor George Bitzas. “It’s a good investment of taxpayer money.”

City Councilor Anthony Suffriti supported the project, but said he’s concerned with the amount of CPA money being spent on school facilities, which are not open to the public during the school day or when extra-

curricular activities are using them. In recent years, CPA funds have also supported an outdoor classroom and community garden at Agawam Junior High School; playground renovations at Perry Lane Park, which is used by the Early Childhood Center; and, in the two largest-ever expenses from the fund, the \$1.8 million design work and \$1 million of the construction costs of the Agawam High School athletic facilities project.

At the CPA Committee meeting, David Cecchi noted that “the students of the town are residents,” too.

All of these facilities are open to the public when not in use by the schools. Learning Tree Conservation Park will also be a public park when not needed by students.

CPA funding comes from a 1 percent surcharge on all Agawam property tax bills, and matching grants from the state government. The money collected for CPA is deposited in a separate account from the town budget, and can be spent only on housing, recreation, open space conservation or historical preservation projects.

Funding for Learning Tree Conservation Park will come from the CPA’s open space fund, which has a balance of \$434,275. The CPA’s unreserved fund, with a balance of \$1.74 million, can also be used for open space projects.

ELECTION ■ from page 1

Early voting is also available this Thursday and Friday, Feb. 27-28. A town-wide polling station will be available at the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, until 7 p.m. on Thursday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday. Unlike absentee voting, early voting does not require a medical, religious or travel-based exemption.

Any registered voter who does not participate in absentee or early voting can go to the polls on March 3.

Registered members of the Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow or Libertarian parties may vote in their own party’s primary election. Unaffiliated (“unenrolled”) voters may choose any party’s ballot upon checking in at the polling place.

Voters will be handed two ballots — one for the presidential and party committee races, and one for the state senate race. Unaffiliated voters do not have to choose both ballots from the same party.

Agawam residents can check their voter registration status and precinct assignment at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele, or call the town clerk’s office at 413-786-0400, ext. 8215. The last day to register to vote, or change parties, in time for the primary election was Feb. 12.

Presidential candidates
All four parties have contested races for their presidential nominees. The candidates are listed in ballot order.

Democratic: Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Minnesota U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, former New York City Mayor Michael

R. Bloomberg, Hawaii U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, New Jersey U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, former San Antonio, Texas, Mayor Julian Castro, California hedge fund manager Tom Steyer, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, former Maryland U.S. Rep. John K. Delaney, New York entrepreneur Andrew Yang, former South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and California author Marianne Williamson. Bennet, Booker, Castro, Delaney, Patrick, Williamson and Yang appear on ballots even though they are no longer actively campaigning.

Republican: Former Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld, former Illinois U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh, incumbent President Donald J. Trump, and California businessman Roque “Rocky” de la Fuente. Walsh appears on ballots even though he has suspended his campaign.

Green-Rainbow: Dario Hunter of California, Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry of California, Kent Mesplay of California, and Howard Hawkins of New York.

Libertarian: Arvin Vohra of Maryland, Vermin Love Supreme of Massachusetts, Jacob George Hornberger of Virginia, Samuel Joseph Robb of Pennsylvania, Dan Taxation is Theft Behrman of Texas, Kimberly Margaret Ruff of Arizona, Kenneth Reed Armstrong of Oregon, Adam Kokesh of Arizona, Jo Jorgensen of South Carolina, and Max Abramson of New Hampshire. Ruff appears on ballots even though she has suspended her campaign.

State Rep. John Velis of Westfield is the sole candidate for the Democratic nomination. Businessman John Cain of Southwick is the only Republican running. The nominees will face each other in a March 31 special election. The winner will serve the remainder of the term vacated by state Sen. Donald Humason Jr. in January. Humason, a Republican, resigned after being elected mayor of Westfield. There are no senate candidates on the Green-Rainbow or Libertarian primary ballots.

The term to be served expires at the end of this year; the district will elect — or re-elect — a state senator for the following two years at the general election in November.

State committee
Also running on the presidential ballot are candidates for the Democratic and Republican state committees. Committee members represent a state Senate district. The race for Democratic committeeman is contested, between Raymond M.P. Drewnowski of Holyoke and David George Morin of Agawam. The others are not contested: Marjorie R. Dune-hew of Holyoke for Democratic state committeewoman; Richard A. Berrena of Holyoke for Republican state committeeman; and Linda Vacon of Holyoke for Republican state committeewoman.

There are no candidates for state committee on Agawam Green-Rainbow or Libertarian ballots.

The Democratic presidential ballot also includes 26 candidates for Democratic Town Committee, all of whom are residents of Agawam or Feeding Hills. Voters can vote for up to 35 local committee members. There are no town party committee candidates on Republican, Green-Rainbow or Libertarian ballots.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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www.turley.com

Out & About

Out & About is a community calendar for Agawam and neighboring towns. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Agawam or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Agawam, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to aan@turley.com, faxed to 413-283-7107 or mailed to Agawam Advertiser News, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Friday, the week before that Thursday's newspaper.

Friday, Feb. 28

LEAP YEAR TAG SALE at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Something for everyone. Continues Saturday.

Saturday, Feb. 29
LEAP YEAR TAG SALE at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Continued from Friday.

Monday, March 2

ROAST TURKEY DINNER at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, 6 p.m. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Call 413-786-6133 and leave a message to reserve tickets.

Tuesday, March 3

FREE LUNCH FOR VETERANS (and one guest) at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. These lunches are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

Thursday, March 5

TAVERN DINNER FUNDRAISER at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, 5-7 p.m. A hearty French meat pie dinner will be served for a donation of \$15 per adult, \$10 per child, to benefit preservation of the 1805 building. Take-out is available.

Friday, March 6

WOMEN OF '76 free performance at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, 7 p.m. Rita Parisi will portray a Hessian general's wife, a minutewoman and spy catcher, and a Southern frontierswoman in this one-woman show about the American Revolution, part of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series. Doors open at 6:15. More info: agawamcc.org.

Sunday, March 8

MUSIC TO SPRING AHEAD free concert at Classical High Condominiums, 235 State St., Springfield, 2 p.m. Music Director Gary Bernice will lead young musicians from Springfield's High School of Science and Technology through an energizing, upbeat program. Arrive early to enjoy free pizza and refreshments. Sponsored by Historic Classi-

Agawam Senior Center

The Senior Center at 954 Main St., Agawam, is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 413-821-0605. Lunch is served daily at 11:30 a.m. for a \$3 suggested donation; diners must register 24 hours in advance at 413-821-0604.

Lunch Menu

Monday, March 2: Ravioli with meat sauce, spinach and cranberry salad, banana.
Tuesday, March 3: Roast turkey with gravy, apple cranberry stuffing, cranberry sauce, dilled carrots, baked good.
Wednesday, March 4: Chicken pot pie, mixed vegetables, garden salad, puff pastry, peaches.
Thursday, March 5: Stuffed peppers, mashed potatoes, carrots and peas, fruited Jell-O.
Friday, March 6: Linguini, red clam sauce, three bean salad, pudding.

Daily Events

Monday, March 2: Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; line dancing (\$3), 9:45 a.m.; chair yoga (\$6), 11:30 a.m.; bridge group, 12:30 p.m.; bingo, 1 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.; intermediate line dancing (\$1), 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3: Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; knitting, 9 a.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 10:15 a.m.; ladies billiards, noon; Senior Cinemas ("The Peanut Butter Falcon"), 12:30 p.m.; mah jongg, 12:30 p.m.; dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; writing group, 1:30 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4: Hearing checks available; yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Friends meeting, 9:30 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 9:45 a.m.; bereavement group, 10 a.m.; bridge, 12:30 p.m.; ballroom lesson (see staff), 1 p.m.; Golden Agers Chapter 2 meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Western Mass. genealogy, 5 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 5: Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; quilting, 9 a.m.; Wii Sports, 10:15 a.m.; reiki (\$10), 10:30 a.m.; bridge, 12:15 p.m.; dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; open art, 1 p.m.; caregiver support group, 5 p.m.; intermediate line dancing (\$1), 5:30 p.m.
Friday, March 6: Yin Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Let's Paint (\$10), 9:15 a.m.; tai chi (\$6), 10 a.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; cornhole, 1 p.m.; cribbage, 1 p.m.; card games, 1 p.m.; "beyond beginner" line dancing (\$1), 6 p.m.; Applause Series event, 7 p.m.

cal. More info: info@historicclassical.org or 413-636-9550.

Wednesday, March 11

TRADING POST BAG SALE at First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St., Agawam, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shoppers can fill a bag for \$5 from a wide selection of items. Continues Saturday.

Saturday, March 14

KIDS' USED CLOTHING EXCHANGE at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are invited to "shop" for free gently used items donated by neighbors in this Agawam Zero Waste Club, Agawam High School SAVE Club and National Honor Society event. More info: helgathehen@gmail.com or Nancy Bobskill, 413-285-2182.

TRADING POST BAG SALE at First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St., Agawam, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Continued from Wednesday.

ONGOING

NAMI CONNECTION, a free, peer-led support group for adults who are concerned about their mental health, meets Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., in the NAMI Western Massachusetts office at 324A Springfield St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-9139 or email information@namiwm.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS can help with eating problems. Meetings are held throughout Western Massachusetts, including regular meetings in

Agawam. There are no dues, fees, weigh-ins or special foods to buy. All are welcome. For more information, call Springfield Answering Services at 413-783-4198 or Marcia at 703-415-6744, or visit www.oawmass.org.

THE TRADING POST consignment shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., Agawam. The Trading Post carries a variety of items, including clothes, shoes, handbags, jewelry, books, toys, household and gift items. Donations are welcomed during store hours.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email RosemarySandlin@rosemarysandlin@gmail.com.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers a free "Crochet Club" the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All are invited to join, including men and women and beginners to experienced crocheters. Drop-ins welcome. Hooks and yarn available if needed. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more information, call Lilian at 413-568-2916.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

RSVP OF THE PIONEER VALLEY is in need of volunteers to drive seniors to get groceries, visit their doctor and fill prescriptions. If you have two hours weekly, a dependable vehicle and really want to make a difference, contact Pat Sicard, RSVP Volunteer Manager, at 413-387-4558, ext. 1, or psicard@hcg-ma.org.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, facilitated by The Atrium at Cardinal Drive through the Alzheimer's Association, meets the first Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam. All are welcome. To register, call 413-821-9911.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP for anyone who has lost a spouse. Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, the second Wednesday of the month, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP for anyone who has lost a child, parent, sibling, or dear relative or friend. Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, the second Wednesday of the month, 7 to 9 p.m.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Public Notices

**AGAWAM
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LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of Lutvija Katica, who is seeking a special permit in accordance with Chapter 180, Section 7 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the construction of a residential dwelling on a legally non-conforming lot located at the premises identified as 27 Liberty Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam
Zoning Board of Appeals
2/27, 3/05/2020

**AGAWAM
ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS
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LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the request of Muradbek Usmonov, who is seeking a special permit in accordance with Chapter 180, Section 55B (30) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the parking of multiple car carriers at the premises identified as 270 Main Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam
Zoning Board of Appeals
2/27, 3/05/2020

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

NOTICE
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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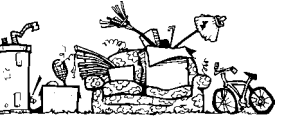
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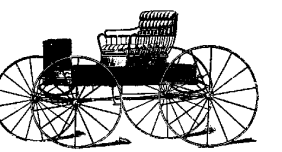
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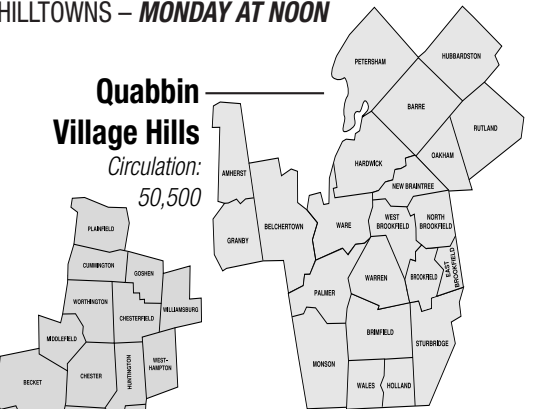
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Lego activity clicks with families

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

The Agawam library was a construction zone last Thursday afternoon. More than a dozen Agawam youngsters gathered in the children's activity room to build some awesome projects with sets of plastic blocks.

During the hour-long activity, kids in kindergarten through fourth grade had the chance to use their imagination and un-

leash their creativity. They created a variety of objects using the interlocking blocks, as well as an array of gears, figurines, and various other pieces.

"Everybody loves Legos — boys, girls, adults of all ages," said Youth Services Librarian Pamela Weingart. She organized the activity, "Lego Fun for Everyone," for kids and their families during the February school vacation.

"I wanted an activity that families could

do together," she added. "There's a lot of value in having kids and their families doing something together."

Families worked at five tables where plastic totes and bags were filled with thousands of plastic pieces. Weingart estimated that about 20 to 25 sets were used by kids to build everything from a "flying house" to an ocean scene to a forest to a castle. Some of the Lego projects were later displayed in the children's library.

Weingart added the sets were among several dozen Lego sets donated to the library during the past several years following a request for donations of the popular plastic blocks.

"We have plenty now — we're all set. We don't need any more," she said.

She said the Lego activity was one of the most successful children's activities she has planned, and "the best part was seeing kids and adults working together and having fun."



Rebecca Hall examines a figurine that she's thinking of using as part of her Lego creation. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Charlotte Anderson couldn't stop talking about the house she made with Lego blocks. Not just any house, but in her words, a "flying house."



This ocean scene — complete with boats and swimmers — was created by Juliette Berube.

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Harper Forsell proudly shows off a colorful forest that she built from Lego blocks.



For Michael Paliy, Lego Fun for Everyone at the library last week was a chance to unleash his creativity.

Right: The only thing missing from Alanna Rose's castle is a moat. She used a variety of colored plastic blocks and other pieces for her unique design.



Mike DeFilipi and his son Romeo were having fun together during last week's Lego Fun for Everyone at the Agawam library.



Angelina Paliy looks for more Lego pieces so she can finish the castle she was building.

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